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**MINUTES OF THE  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

**March 16, 2009**

6 The Board of Selectmen held an interview session on Monday March 16, 2009 at Salem Town  
7 Hall, 33 Geremonty Drive, Salem, NH.

8  
9 **PRESENT:** Chairman Elizabeth A. Roth, Vice-Chairman Arthur E. Barnes, Secretary Michael J.  
10 Lyons, Selectman Everett P. McBride, Selectman Patrick Hargreaves and Town Manager Mr. J.  
11 Sistare.

12  
13 The Board conducted interviews for the Conservation Commission and Recreation Advisory  
14 Committee. The interview session began at 6:32 p.m., beginning with the interview of the  
15 candidates for the full time Conservation Commission vacancy.

16  
17 **Conservation Commission**

18 Ms. Julie Vondrak, a current alternate member of the Conservation Commission spoke about her  
19 experience as a NH certified wetland scientist and environmental consultant and why she would  
20 like to become a full time member of the Commission. In response to a query from Chairman  
21 Roth, Ms. Vondrak reported she has been able to use her field skills on several projects with the  
22 Commission.

23  
24 Mr. Patrick McDougall, also a current alternate member of the Commission, spoke about his  
25 relevant experience. There were no questions for Mr. McDougall from the Board but he was  
26 given clarification on the need to re-apply for the alternate position when his term expires if he  
27 was unsuccessful for the full time position.

28  
29 **MOTION:** by Selectman Hargreaves  
30 *Move to appoint Ms. Julie Vondrak as a full time member of the Conservation Commission*  
31 *with a term to expire in April 2010.*

32 **SECOND:** Selectman McBride

33 **VOTE:** 5-0-0

34 **The motion carried unanimously.**

35  
36 **Recreation Advisory Committee**

37 The Board conducted interviews to fill two vacancies on the Recreation Advisory Committee as  
38 follows.

39  
40 Mr. Timothy Craig provided a statement to the Board on what his goals would be as a full time  
41 member of the Recreation Advisory Committee. In response to a query from Selectman  
42 Hargreaves Mr. Craig stated what he felt he could contribute to the Committee's projects. In  
43 response to a query from Chairman Roth he stated he was President of Salem Youthful Cross.

44  
45 Mr. Thomas Haynes explained he was a new resident to the Town of Salem and provided a  
46 statement regarding what he felt he could contribute to the Committee. Chairman Roth asked

1 about the recreation facilities in the areas where he has lived, and whether he would be interested  
2 in bringing in funding for the Committee.

3  
4 Mr. Peter Santerelli made a statement on why he wanted to join the Committee, talking with the  
5 Board about the need to expand facilities for the Rams and about the possibility of having a suite  
6 of multi use recreation courts in town.

7 In response to a query from Selectman Lyons he spoke about where he felt recreation should be  
8 on the list of priorities for the town and about what could be done to expand recreation within the  
9 town.

10  
11 Mr. Gary Treff gave a statement to the Board on why he had applied for the position on the  
12 Committee. He also answered various questions from members of the Board regarding ideas for  
13 helping Hedgehog Park and what he felt the deficiencies were in the town recreation program.

14  
15 The Board held a discussion regarding alternate members and the candidates.

16  
17 **MOTION:** by Selectman Hargreaves

18 *Move to appoint Mr. Timothy Craig as a full time member of the Recreation Advisory*  
19 *Committee with a term to expire in November 2009.*

20 **SECOND:** Selectman Lyons

21 **VOTE:** 5-0-0

22 **The motion carried unanimously.**

23  
24 **MOTION:** by Selectman Hargreaves

25 *Move to appoint Mr. Peter Santerelli as a full time member of the Recreation Advisory*  
26 *Committee with a term to expire in November 2009.*

27 **SECOND:** Selectman McBride

28 There followed a discussion between members of the Board regarding who would be the best fit  
29 for the position. Selectmen Hargreaves and McBride withdrew the motion and second.

30 **MOTION:** by Selectman McBride

31 *Move to appoint Mr. Gary Treff as a full time member of the Recreation Advisory Committee*  
32 *with a term to expire in November 2009.*

33 **SECOND:** Selectman Lyons

34 There was additional discussion regarding the best candidate.

35 **VOTE:** 5-0-0

36 **The motion carried unanimously.**

37  
38 Chairman Roth requested that Mr. Sistare's office notify the other applicants that they can re-  
39 apply as vacancies open up.

40  
41 **MOTION:** by Selectman Hargreaves

42 *Move to recess to the Board's regular meeting in the Knightly Room*

43 **SECOND:** Selectman McBride

44 **VOTE:** 5-0-0

45 **The motion carried unanimously.**

1 Chairman Roth reconvened the meeting in the Knightly Meeting Room at 7:10 p.m. She joined  
2 the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance, and the Board then introduced themselves.  
3

#### 4 **1. Meeting Minutes**

5 **MOTION:** by Selectman Lyons

6 *Move to accept the minutes of the joint meeting with Salem Board of Selectmen and Salem  
7 Legislative Delegation on February 18, 2009*

8 **SECOND:** Selectman McBride

9 **VOTE:** 5-0-0

10 **The motion carried unanimously.**  
11

12 **MOTION:** by Selectman Lyons

13 *Move to accept the minutes of the Board of Selectmen Regular meeting on February 23, 2009*

14 **SECOND:** Selectman McBride

15 **VOTE:** 5-0-0

16 **The motion carried unanimously.**  
17

18 **MOTION:** by Selectman Lyons

19 *Move to accept the minutes of the Board of Selectmen Regular meeting on March 2, 2009*

20 **SECOND:** Selectman McBride

21 **VOTE:** 5-0-0

22 **The motion carried unanimously.**  
23

#### 24 **2. Chairman Comments**

25 Chairman Roth began by declaring the public hearing for item 4 on the agenda open, and  
26 recessed it until later in the meeting. She then thanked everyone for their votes and support  
27 during the election campaign, and said some words of thanks to the other candidates for putting  
28 themselves forward for election.  
29

30 Chairman Roth announced the following committee appointments:  
31

- 32 • Ms. Julie Vondrak – to a full time position on the Conservation Commission with a term  
33 expiring in April 2010.
- 34 • Mr. Timothy Craig – to a full time position on the Recreation Advisory Committee with a  
35 term expiring in November 2009.
- 36 • Mr. Gary Treff – to a full time position on the Recreation Advisory Committee with a  
37 term expiring in November 2009.
- 38 • Mr. Gary Treff – to a full time position on the Recreation Advisory Committee with a  
39 term expiring in November 2009.
- 40

41 She congratulated the successful candidates and encouraged the other candidates to apply again  
42 for future vacancies.  
43

1 **3. Board Organization Meeting**

2  
3 *a) Elect Officers*

4 **MOTION:** by Selectman Lyons

5 *Move to appoint Selectman Barnes as Chairman of the Board of Selectmen*

6 **SECOND:** Selectman McBride

7 **VOTE:** 3-0-2 (Selectman Hargreaves and Selectman Barnes abstained)

8 **The motion carried.**

9  
10 **MOTION:** by Selectman McBride

11 *Move to appoint Selectman Lyons as Vice Chairman of the Board of Selectmen*

12 **SECOND:** Selectman Barnes

13 **VOTE:** 4-1-0 (Selectman Hargreaves voted against the motion)

14 **The motion carried.**

15  
16 **MOTION:** by Selectman Hargreaves

17 *Move to appoint Selectman Roth as Secretary of the Board of Selectmen*

18 **SECOND:** Selectman McBride

19 **VOTE:** 5-0-0

20 **The motion carried unanimously.**

21  
22 Chairman Roth thanked last year's officers and congratulated those appointed for 2009. She  
23 then handed over to Selectman Barnes as the new Chairman.

24  
25 *b) Discuss Selectmen appointments to boards and committees*

26 Chairman Barnes referred to the form in the Board's packets and asked the members to decide  
27 which boards and committees they would be interested in serving on and to complete and return  
28 the form to Mr. Sistare.

29  
30 *c) Review Board of Selectmen Bylaws/Code of Ethics*

31 Chairman Barnes asked the Board members to review the copy of the Board's bylaws and ethics  
32 in their packet for discussion at the next meeting.

33  
34 **4. Public Hearing – Accept Donation from Council on Aging for Senior Center Addition**

35 Chairman Barnes re-opened the public hearing, and Mr. Sistare handed over to Ms. Patti Drelick,  
36 Senior Services Director who stated she was here to present a second check for the extension to  
37 the Senior Center in the amount of \$100,000 on behalf of the Council on Aging. She reported  
38 work would hopefully start on the interior of the extension within a few weeks and the opening  
39 will be in May 2009.

40  
41 **MOTION:** by Selectman Hargreaves

42 *Move in accordance with RSA 31:95(b) that the Salem Board of Selectmen does hereby accept*  
43 *a donation in the amount of \$100,000 from the Salem Council on Aging towards the*  
44 *construction of the planned 1,500 sf. addition at the Russell & Roberta Ingram Senior Center*

45 **SECOND:** Selectman McBride

46 Selectman Hargreaves thanked the Council on Aging for their contributions, and Ms. Drelick

1 introduced the Council's board members who were in the audience.

2 **VOTE: 5-0-0**

3 **The motion carried unanimously.**

#### 5. **Town Meeting Follow up**

6 Chairman Barnes asked Mr. Sistare to report on the Town Meeting. Mr. Sistare reported the  
7 Town meeting had been very successful. He suggested moving to the matter of the charter  
8 commission.

#### 6. **Set Date for Special Meeting to Set Election for Charter Commission**

10 Mr. Sistare read the statute pertaining to special elections explaining about the recount period  
11 and that the Board would need to hold a meeting to order the special election on the charter  
12 commission between March 24<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. He also outlined the options for dates of the special  
13 election based upon the date of the Board's meeting. There followed a discussion with the Board  
14 in which Selectman Hargreaves requested information on how much the election will cost. Mr.  
15 Sistare explained about the polling places, the hours for polling and the options available.  
16 Selectman Roth explained the statute governs when these types of elections can be held and they  
17 had looked at the possibility of combining with the Windham special elections; however the  
18 dates did not coincide. There followed a discussion on how the town might cut costs relating to  
19 the election, and the Board asked Mr. Sistare to convey their suggestions to the town moderator.  
20 In response to a query from Selectman Hargreaves, Mr. Sistare clarified how long the filing  
21 period is.

23 **MOTION:** by Selectman Hargreaves

24 *Move to convene a special meeting of the Board of Selectmen on March 24, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.*

25 **SECOND:** Selectman McBride

26 The Board agreed the meeting should take place in the upstairs conference room at the Town  
27 Hall.

28 **VOTE: 5-0-0**

29 **The motion carried unanimously.**

30 Mr. Sistare agreed to attend to the necessary postings for the meeting.

#### 7. **Town Manager's Report**

31 Mr. Sistare reported the Governor has proposed to put the meals and rooms revenue sharing back  
32 into his budget and the town would benefit by \$1.3million. He confirmed there is still the  
33 potential to lose up to \$400,000 due to the loss of state aid for the retirement scheme.

34 Mr. Sistare also provided an update on costs to the town of the ice storm, which are currently  
35 approximately \$339,000, of which the town could expect approximately \$254,000 as FEMA  
36 reimbursement in 2009.

#### **Stimulus Package:**

37 Mr. Sistare reported \$1billion will be available to municipalities in the stimulus package for  
38 hiring police officers and Chief Donovan will bring a proposal to the next meeting regarding  
39 taking advantage of this aid. In response to a query from Selectman Roth, he stated the Chief

1 had been informed of deadlines today in an e-mail and the deadline for applying is April 14,  
2 2009. In response to Selectman Roth, Mr. Sistare reported communication on the stimulus  
3 money has improved depending on the department involved, and the town needs to be proactive  
4 in maintaining communication. Regarding the COPS grants he reported this would fund hiring  
5 police officers for the first three years. Selectman Hargreaves requested information on what the  
6 fourth year would cost the town, including the impact on the rest of the police department as a  
7 result of bringing a new person on board.

8  
9 Mr. Sistare reported there is a program in the stimulus package to fund one bridge per  
10 municipality at 100% on construction only, and Mr. Puff has filed a request for the Lawrence  
11 Road Bridge. Mr. Sistare explained construction is estimated to be \$1.5 million and the town  
12 would receive the money sooner than they would through the Bridge Aid Program. He  
13 confirmed he is working with Ms. Savastano on options to recommend to the Board regarding  
14 the bonding period for the bond which has been approved. Mr. Sistare stated if the town is  
15 approved for the bridge stimulus program the Board would need to decide where the money  
16 should be allocated. There followed a discussion between members of the Board about how they  
17 might proceed regarding road and bridge construction projects.

18  
19 Mr. Sistare reported the legislature is proposing an increase in the gas tax and part of this will  
20 come back to towns as part of the highway block grant which will increase Salem's portion by  
21 \$265,000. He asked whether the Board would like him to draft a letter of support to the  
22 legislature. There followed a discussion and Chairman Barnes confirmed the Board would take a  
23 neutral stance on this at present.

24  
25 Mr. Sistare handed over to Mr. Chris Dillon, Recreation Director for a report on tree removal at  
26 Hedgehog Park. Mr. Dillon handed out a packet to the Board which contained a copy of a letter  
27 from the forester working with the Conservation Commission and a draft contract from a logger  
28 interested in removing the trees. He stated he was before the Board to request a waiver of the  
29 timber tax, providing the reasons.

30  
31 **MOTION:** by Selectman Hargreaves

32 *Move to waive the timber tax for Robert E. Lee C & C Chipping on their harvesting of the*  
33 *trees at Hedgehog Park*

34 **SECOND:** Selectman McBride

35 Selectman Roth confirmed with Mr. Sistare that the liability insurance clause in the contract is  
36 sufficient.

37 **VOTE:** 5-0-0

38 **The motion carried unanimously.**

39  
40 Mr. Dillon reported that the Recreation Department in cooperation with the Salem Rotary Club  
41 and the Community College had hosted the state regional basketball tournament for the Special  
42 Olympics at the high school which had been a very successful event.

43  
44 There was a brief discussion regarding whether there was a possibility of receiving any stimulus  
45 money for recreation and Mr. Dillon reported he was looking into this.

**8. Selectmen Reports/Correspondence**

Selectmen Lyons and McBride thanked voters for their support and congratulated the Board members who had been successfully re-elected.

Selectman McBride requested that Mr. Sistare arrange to have the manholes on Main Street leveled with the road.

Selectman Hargreaves confirmed they are aiming for 2010 for the opening of the skate park, and asked for volunteers. He also put out a call for volunteers to assist with the removal of tree stumps at Hedgehog Park, and for assistance in moving the shed at the Field of Dreams.

Chairman Barnes stated he would like to set goals for the Board and asked members to give their suggestions to Town Manager Sistare ahead of the next meeting which they would use as a workshop to discuss these. He also stated he would like to talk with the Board and Mr. Sistare on how the town will deal with the potential shortfall in state aid revenue in this year's budget.

Mr. Sistare reminded everyone that the state primary election is set for March 24, 2009.

**9. Old Business/Table Pending**

Mr. Roland Morassi came forward and asked about a property tax exemption for disabled people. He stated the town needs to re-evaluate taxing of mobile homes. Following a brief discussion, Selectman McBride suggested he should file for abatement of his property taxes. Chairman Barnes explained how to go about getting a request for revaluation of mobile homes on the warrant through petition, and explained about how to file for abatement. Selectman Hargreaves offered to meet with Mr. Morassi and assist him with a petitioned warrant article for disabled residents.

**• Additions and/or Requests by Public or Board by Vote**

There were none.

**• Upcoming Meetings**

- March 30, 2009 - Board of Selectmen Meeting (workshop)
- April 6, 2009 – Board of Selectmen Meeting (Selectman Hargreaves informed the Board he would not be available to attend this meeting)
- April 13, 2009 – Board of Selectmen Meeting
- April 20, 2009 – Board of Selectmen Meeting

**• Upcoming Events**

- March 24, 2009 – Primary for State Representative
- April 28, 2009 – Special Election for State Representative

Mr. Sistare requested a non-meeting meeting.

**MOTION:** by Selectman McBride

***Move to adjourn and go into a non-Public Session under RSA 91:3 II (a) Personnel***

**SECOND:** Selectman Lyons

Chairman Barnes polled the Board.

1 **VOTE:** 5-0-0

2 **The motion carried unanimously.**

3

4 Without further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

5

6 Notes/Minutes Taken by: Sandra Maxwell

7

8 Approved: Board of Selectmen

9

10 Date: March 30, 2009