

CURTIS RAND
FIRST SELECTMAN

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BOS – Minutes – 1.6.2025

The Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting minutes of January 6, 2025.

Present: Curtis Rand, First Selectman; Christian Williams, Selectman; Katherine Kiefer, Selectman; members of the press and public.

The meeting was **called to order** at 5:00pm.

C. Williams made a motion to **approve the agenda**. K. Kiefer seconded, and the agenda was approved unanimously.

K. Kiefer made a motion to **approve the minutes of the December 2nd, 2024** Regular Meeting. C. Rand seconded. C. Williams abstained. Motion was approved.

New Business:

Discussion about topics in 2025

- a. The Selectmen will begin preparing the annual budget in February. Non-profits have put in their requests and department heads will begin working on their part with the Comptroller. C. Rand noted that there will be a property revaluation in 2025. The entire country has seen values go up since COVID, the Selectmen will work on how they can keep Salisbury affordable. The Board mentioned that even though property values will generally rise, that doesn't mean everyone's taxes will go up. The Board of Education may see an increase in the town's share for Housatonic Valley Regional High School costs, as a large number of Salisbury Central students are moving up next fiscal year.
- b. Solid waste is a challenging issue. The area towns have been working on figuring out a solution for solid waste disposal since the announcement of the dissolution of Materials Innovation and Recycling Authority (MIRA). The towns were told they had until July 2027, but it was recently announced that they have until July 1, 2025. There are few options throughout the state and the towns and the Northwest Council of Governments are working to find solutions, but it was mentioned that we are making too much garbage and need to reduce what we are throwing out. At this time, the town is not paying for single-stream recycling, but this will likely change in the future. The Transfer Station Recycling Advisory Committee (TRAC) has been working to increase composting at the transfer station, and they are applying for a \$100,000 grant from the CT Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (CT DEEP) for bear-proof containers and a truck to transport food scraps to farms requesting compost materials.
- c. The Selectmen mentioned the increase in the budget for lake management due to the invasive species. All the lakes will require continuous monitoring and treatments.
- d. The town requested a road safety audit by the CT Department of Transportation (CT DOT) and was denied, but they are probably able to do a study on speed limits. Resident Trooper Veras believes that varying speed limits on state roads throughout town cause confusion, and the Selectmen may appeal to DOT for one constant speed limit on the roads and a 25 mph at crosswalks.
- e. Pope Land Design Committee will be reaching out to the Planning & Zoning Commission to advise them on the next steps for going forward with recreation, affordable housing and conservation on the property.
- f. The capacity of our Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA) sewer plant has been brought up multiple times over the past year during discussions of adding affordable housing and any new construction. The town has hired Tighe & Bond provide an evaluation of sewer collection system capacity, and a review of available treatment system capacity.
- g. Salisbury Pathways Committee is waiting on the plans from engineers for the connection of the pathways from Brook Street to pathway south of Salmon Kill Road. Once plans are completed, they can submit them to the CT DOT.

Selectmen's Reports

K. Kiefer mentioned that the Economic Development Committee has two new members: Alice Peck and Adam Higgins. Committee members Ward Belcher and Tom Schactman have resigned.

The Selectmen mentioned that the town will be applying for a Neglected Cemeteries Grant in February for stone restoration at the plots at 1 Town Hill Road, Lakeville.

Salisbury Winter Sports Association (SWSA) will hold the 99th Annual Ski Jumps on Jan 31-February 2, 2025.

Adjourn: 5:42pm