

TOWN OF SALEM
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING-TOWN BOARD &
FOURTH 2023 BUDGET REVIEW
OCTOBER 12, 2022

Present: Supervisor Evera Sue Clary; Town Council: Howard Law; Brenda Levey; Laura Dunham; Town Clerk-Patricia Gilchrist; Clerk to Supervisor-Kathy Chambers

Others Present: Travis Keys-H'Way/Water; Kim Erbe-Panning Bd./Library; Patty Burch-Battenkill Kitchen; Rachel Clothier-Courthouse; Jeanne Smith-Georgi

Public Present: Eli Thetford; Kylie Austin; Brady Moffitt-Ag Leadership students from Salem Central School; John Gunther; Cynthia Weinrich

Absent-*Marcus Blanck-Councilman (previously marked present & he was not); Eric Rogers-Water Dep't.; Judy Flagg-Historian/Historic Preservation/Records Mg'mt.; Moe Patrick-Planning Bd.; Rebecca Brown-Water/Library; Herb Perkins-Sewer Comm.; Bob Graham-Salem Fire Dep't. (report provided); Nancy Quell-DCO (report provided)

5:00 P.M.-Review of **Warrants #10 & Abstract #10 of 2022** for approval & payment

6:00 P.M.-Meeting called to order by Supervisor Evera Sue Clary, followed by Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes from 09/14/2022 Monthly Board Meeting-Hold off on approving as some of the Board members have not had time to review.

Minutes from 09/21/2022-First 2023 Budget Workshop Meeting-Motion made by Councilman Marcus Blanck, seconded by Councilwoman Brenda Levey, to approve the minutes as presented from the 09/21/2022 First 2023 Budge Workshop Meeting; passed unanimously 5-0.

Councilwoman Brenda Levey introduced the three Ag Leadership students in Mrs. Maxwell's Ag class @ Salem Central School. All the students picked the Salem Town Board meeting to attend. Welcome & thank you for attending the Town Board meeting!

Approval of Warrants #10 & Highway Abstract #10 of 2022-Motion made by Councilman Marcus Blanck, seconded by Councilwoman Brenda Levey, to approve Warrants #10 & Highway Abstract #10 as presented for payment; passed unanimously 5-0.

DEPARTMENT/COMMITTEE REPORTS

Salem Fire Dep't.-Chief Graham emailed his report to the Board; total of 13 calls for Sep't., 2022: 7-Salem; Cambridge-5; Hebron-1

Training: station maintenance; driver training; hydrant training; ladder truck w/Greenwich

Schools: 2 members completed BEFO--100 plus hrs. of training

Meetings: Fire Dep't. held their monthly mtg.; Chief & Officers mtg. in Whitehall

Fund Raising: Chicken Bar-b-Que

OSHA Mandates: All trucks having yearly service done; pump testing & NYSI

Total Hours for Year-6,743; report will be filed

Highway Dep't.-Travis emailed reports to all Board members. He reported that the payloader was here but still no bucket yet. Would like a motion from the Board to list the old payloader for sale. **Motion made by** Councilman Howard Law, seconded by Councilman Marcus Blanck, to list the payloader for sale @ a price of \$80,100.00. If no minimum bid is received, can still trade in toward the price of the new one w/Capital.

2018 Pick-up Truck-Auction ended last night, 10/11/2022; final bid rec'd. was \$36,888.00, plus premium of \$4,611, for a total of \$41,499 (buyer pays the premium to GovDeals).

Resolution #84-**Motion made by** Councilman Howard Law, seconded by Councilwoman Brenda Levey, to accept the bid for the 2018 pick-up truck in the amount of \$36,888.00; passed unanimously 5-0.

D.O.T. Physicals-Cost is approximately \$150 every two years. **Motion made by** Councilman Marcus Blanck, seconded by Councilwoman Laura Dunham, that if a D.O.T. is required after employment, that the Town of Salem will pay the cost of the same; passed unanimously 5-0.

Hickory Hill Bridge is now open; changed some tubes & did some tiling.

Leaf Pick-up will be from 10/31-11/03/2022 in the former Village. Will begin blowing the leaves off the dirt roads that week, also.

Winter Sand is done; have started bringing it up to the pile.

Daily report for month of Sep't. 2022 & short report for highway will be filed.

Water-Eric emailed his report to all Board members. 319 meters currently in service & have changed a couple of meter heads. Looking into a more cost-effective way to read meters & fix the "no or miss" reads.

Two new water hook-ups for Sep't. Took two free water on-line training classes. Regular upkeep/maintenance was performed; eye wash & fire extinguisher check done. Monthly water sample required by D/O/H met the bacteriological requirements for a public water supply as set forth in subpart 5-1.5 of the State Sanitary Code under Public Health Law 225. Cleaned well #2; had an issue w/testing so had to re-disinfect the well & try again. Did two extra tests—one on well #1 & one from the system & both came back good. After re-disinfection, we flushed well #2 good & then got two good samples back-to-back. D/O/H allowed us to get the well back on line & everything is running normal. Got back iron & manganese 3rd quarter test results; they look the same as last quarter. When fall flushing is complete, which will begin on Monday, 10/10-Friday, 10/14/22, we will be winterizing hydrants preparing for the cold months.

Report will be filed.

Georgi-Jeanne Smith emailed report to all Board members. Trees have been taken care of by Buddy Nolan.

There may be a rental of Comm. Room on 10/29/22 if \$100 payment is rec'd. Plumbing issue w/toilet resolved by volunteer, Paul Levey. Parking lot incident was reported to the Wash. Co. Sheriff's Dep't. (no good camera footage available). Annual inspection of fire extinguishers in the Comm. Room & Museum was done by Salem Highway Dep't. Culvert on Adams Lane coming into the park was also replaced; low spots in the parking area were fixed & Adams Lane was graded, all done by the H'Way Dep't. A non-rental wedding took place on the grounds on Saturday, 10/08/22. Supervisor Clary spoke w/the bride's father to explain that a rental contract w/insurance & a fee is necessary if using the grounds (the wedding had already taken place). Playground meeting in the CR on 10/26/22. Voting will take place in the CR on Tuesday, 11/08/22. List presented for closing down everything after LARAC uses the CR for a grant session on Monday, 11/21/22:

Water needs to be shut off after LARAC event; picnic tables need to be brought up by the CR; lending library needs to be fixed on the side where it was damaged & will need to be stored inside. AC needs to be taken out of window in CR & stored inside; heat needs to be turned on in Museum; garbage pick-up will stop in Nov. (Outside garbage can by kiosk needs to go in shed.) Sandy Adams working on fall clean-up of the gardens/flower pots. Bathroom door needs to be locked before Halloween; Museum bathroom is moldy & should be cleaned. Report will be filed.

Courthouse-Patty Burch reported that approximately 240 people attended the Beer n Brats event. \$617 was raised for the Salem-Shushan Fuel Fund from this event. The first "**Story Court**" was held at the court-house on 10/06/22, w/Dick McGuire & Neil Adams, talking about daily life growing up in their times. Very entertaining & informative session for all who attended! Two wonderful members of our community to tell their stories!

Art exhibit currently in the great hall w/paintings by Gail Peck from 10/14-12/04/22.

'**Trunk or Treat**' will take place on Saturday, 10/29 from 5-7 pm (w/a barn dance after). Trunks must be parked by 4 pm. Trick or treaters are asked to part at the school & walk over to the Court-house; traffic in the parking lot will be blocked off for safety reasons. Salem PTA, Bancroft Library, Salem Farm Supply & the Courthouse are all sponsoring this event, so get out your scariest costumes & plan on attending!

Annual Meeting will take place on 11/15/22.

Memorial Trees will once again be available for purchase & decorating in memory of a loved one. The tree lighting will take place early in December; Scott Rishell is working on this. Limited number available so get your early!

Christmas Crafts-Hope to have vendors for the craft fair in early December in the Courthouse.

Chamber Xmas Trees-Councilwoman Laura Dunham reported that trees will once again be purchased to put around businesses in Town as has been done in the past. Need approximately 18 trees; Clerk Gilchrist reported to Councilwoman Dunham that perhaps Nygard's in Shushan might be willing to have their trees displayed this year & that she would be happy to go w/her & Jess if need be.

Delaware Engineering is working w/LCLGRP regarding septic issues.

Planning Board-Clerk Erbe reported that there would be a public hearing on a subdivision on Steele Rd. & a site plan application to build a garage for October meeting.

DCO-Nancy Quell provided Sep't. report. 09/16/22-Issue w/dog on porch @ 53 Archibald St. not being friendly; Co. dispatch called off en route. 09/19/22-County dispatch called re 2 dogs at end of Black Creek Rd./Route 29. One beagle was dead & the 2nd one was taken to the Vet w/possible broken leg. Owner was notified

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

Great article in the Free Press re John Tomasi's plans for the Central House, which he just recently purchased.

Northern Borders meeting in Salem on October 24, 2022. Supervisor Clary working on others who might want to attend.

NEW BUSINESS

John Gunther-Shushan Railroad Crossing-The proposal is for railroad gates at the crossing just before Yushak's Market & right in front of John's residence. Bill Taber from the railroad is seeking funding for three Projects: Rtes. 29 & 22, Cambridge routes, & intersection of Rtes. 61/64 in Shushan at a cost of approx. \$250,000. DOT will require that certain items be done when upgrading. Supervisor Clary has rec'd. emails that she will forward to John.

Dog Leash Law-There is a filed Local Law #1 for Dog Control for the Town of Salem, filed w/NYS Dep't. of State on 12/31/2010 when NYS Dep't. of Ag & Mkts. required that all Towns pass their own. The Law states "The purpose of this Local Law is to protect the health, safety & well being of the persons & property by imposing restrictions on the keeping & running at large of dogs within the Town." "Run at Large" means to be in a public place or on private land without the knowledge, consent & approval of the owner of such lands. It shall be unlawful for any owner of any dog in the Town to permit or allow such dog to run at large unless the dog is accompanied by its owner or a responsible person & under the full control of such owner or person. For the purpose of the Local Law, a dog or dogs hunting in the company of a hunter or hunters shall be considered as accompanied by its owner. There is no Leash Law per say but the dog must be under control at all times. Clerk Gilchrist will make copies for all Board members.

Town Office Discussion-There are noxious fumes in the Town Office resulting from pot being smoked/burned either inside where going up the stairs to the apartment or just outside the exit. The smell is very strong! Supervisor Clary would like permission to purchase an air purifier. **Motion made by** Councilwoman Laura Dunham, seconded by Councilman Marcus Blanck, to purchase said air purifier; passed unanimously 5-0.

Old Village Park-Was there a particular name that was used for the Park? Ask Jon McClellan if he remembers. The light pole that was snapped off is now working.

Community Assistance Fund (known as Poor Fund)-Check w/Attorney Klingebiel to see exactly what money can be used for. Supervisor Clary would like approval to give \$2,500 each to the Salem Food Pantry & the Salem-Shushan Fuel Fund. **Resolution #85-Motion made by** Councilwoman Laura Dunham, seconded by Councilman Marcus Blanck, allowing \$2,500 to be given to the Salem Food Pantry & \$2,500 to the Salem-Shushan Fuel Fund if approved by Attorney Klingebiel; passed unanimously 5-0.

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Insurance Renewal w/CYBER SECURITY-Supervisor Clary advised that the renewal figure includes

\$1,200 for Cyber Security--total renewal figure is \$36,376.96. Classes re cyber security will be required to be taken. Cost of insurance for Georgi on the Battenkill will be paid from Georgi funds to the Town of Salem.

Resolution #86-Motion made by Councilman Howard Law, seconded by Councilwoman Laura Dunham, to sign whatever paperwork is necessary to renew the insurance contract w/Northern Insuring, the Town's carrier for NYMIR, for the coming coverage year; passed unanimously 5-0.

Carnival Grounds Lease w/Salem Fire Dep't.-Currently a 99-year Lease w/Salem Volunteer Fire Dep't., Inc., subject to annual renewal, w/payment to the Town of \$1.00 per year (which have been made every year since Village dissolution in March of 2016). There was an Amendment of Lease, dated October 21, 2016, to paragraph '1. Lease Term' of the original Lease that had to do w/capital improvements to the property made by the Salem Volunteer Fire Dep't., Inc. Attorney Klingebiel should review both the original Lease Agreement & the Amendment of Lease to see if changes should be made. Copies were also given to all Board members for their review.

ARPA Funds Sheet-Clerk to Supervisor Chambers gave everyone a new sheet showing ARPA fund requests, expended amounts & funds available as of 09/30/2022.

OLD BUSINESS

2023 Tentative Budget-was handed out for review; changes made as agreed upon @ 10/05/2022 Budget Workshop to the following Lines:

- 7-Personal Svcs.-Town Board-Up only 2% from 2022 to 5,306
- 47-Unallocated Ins.-Special Items-From \$36,000 down to \$34,280
- 49-Other Gov't. Support-Special Items-changed to \$10,000 (Mark Rodes IT work-Ask Attorney Klingebiel if this needs to go out to bid)
- 112-Con't.-Library-2% to \$32,640
- 180-Sales Tax Money-Local Sources-change to \$16,352 (20% of am't. for General)
- 280-Personal Svcs.-General Repairs (Summer)-change to \$145,000
- 302-Personal Svcs.-Snow Removal (Winter)-change to \$138,000
- 341-Sales Tax Money-Local Sources-change to \$65,411 (80% for highway)
- 342-Svcs. Other Gov'ts.-Local Sources-drop to \$0 (no contract w/Wash. Co. for plowing Rte. 153)
- 343-Interest & Earnings-Local Sources-increase to \$2,000 as interest is @ 2.8% currently
- 457-Con't. Expenses-Salem Fire Protection District-2% now @ \$176,713

Resolution #87-Motion made by Councilman Marcus Blanck, seconded by Councilman Howard Law to adopt the 2023 Tentative Budget as presented; said Budget becoming the 2023 Preliminary Budget; passed unanimously 5-0.

Resolution #88-Motion made by Councilman Howard Law, seconded by Councilwoman Brenda Levey, to override the 2023 Tax Cap Limit; passed unanimously 5-0.

Resolution #89-Motion made by Councilman Howard Law, seconded by Councilwoman Laura Dunham, to set the Public Hearing on the Fire Protection Contracts w/Salem Volunteer Fire Dep't., Inc. & the Shushan Volunteer Fire Company, Inc. in the amounts of \$176,713 & \$55,707, respectively, & the Public Hearing for the 2023 Preliminary Budget, both for October 26, 2022, @ 5:00 pm & 5:15 pm, respectively, @ Proudfit Hall; 181 Main Street; Salem, NY; passed unanimously 5-0.

Resolution #90-Motion made by Councilwoman Laura Dunham, seconded by Councilman Marcus Blanck, to set the Public Hearing on Local Law #1 of 2022, entitled "Override the 2023 Tax Cap Limit", said Salem Town Board decided to adopt a budget with a property tax levy that exceeds the level set by NYS, so Salem Town Board must pass a Local Law to override said tax cap. Public Hearing will take place on October 26, 2022, @ 5:30 pm, @ Proudfit Hall; 181 Main Street; Salem, NY; passed unanimously 5-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS-Rachel Clothier asked the Town Board if there were any particular programs they would like to see @ the Courthouse. Councilwoman Levey & Rachel both reported that there was a great need for an after-school program & Councilwoman Levey also said that classes are needed on how to budget money. Supervisor Clary reported that Dawn Adams Rae teaches these types of programs, as well as Cyber Security classes.

Resolution #91-At request of Highway Sup't. Keys, **motion made by** Councilman Howard Law, seconded by Councilwoman Laura Dunham, to go into Executive Session to discuss a matter of employment. Problem with filling out proper paperwork regarding severing employment. Wrong dates in some cases & no paperwork provided at one point. Four sick days are due. If form can be filled out properly, w/correct pay dates, etc., pay for that time; only once chance to make it right. If not, don't pay for the four sick days. Unanimous decision by the Board, 5-0.

Motion made by Councilman Howard Law, seconded by Councilwoman Brenda Levey, to come out of Execu-