

**TOWN OF SALEM
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
SALEM TOWN BOARD
FEBRUARY 13, 2019 MINUTES**

Present: Supervisor Evera Sue Clary; Town Council Members: Harold Gilchrest; Bruce Ferguson; Marcus Blanck; Howard Law; Town Clerk-Patricia Gilchrist; Clerk to Supervisor-Kathleen Chambers

Others Present: Travis Keys-Highway; Maurice Patrick-Planning Board; Kim Erbe-Planning Board & Library; Al Cormier-Historian; Wendy Bordwell-Georgi; Janice Quartararo-Courthouse;

Public Present: need list

6:00 p.m. - Review of Abstracts #2, 2019 for payment.

7:00 p.m. - **Regular Monthly Meeting** of the Salem Town Board was called to order by Supervisor Clary, followed by Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes will be presented at next month's meeting.

Courthouse – Janice Quartararo highlighted the on goings of the Courthouse: 1. preparing for the 150th celebration – a great line up, starting off with Al Cormier's lecture on 03/14. John Waite along with Marcus Cummings are planning something for later this year. 2. Working on after school programs, art classes, piano, etc. 3. Annual appeal is wrapping up, would like to thank all donors. 4. Website update is in progress. 5. Waiting to hear on the grant through Carrie Woerner. 6. Speaker of the Assembly, Carl Heasty visited LLP last year. There is a possibility of a grant, via Carrie Woerner, for a \$10,000 grant for LLP. 7. Fund raising for Lunch, Learn and Play will begin shortly. 8. LARAC grant – received \$4000 to add the 8th grade program and received an additional \$800 for Chamber music. 9. Applied for grants to Stewarts, Troy Savings and Charles Wood.

Water – Travis Keys reported for Eric Rogers. 1. There have been 4-5 freeze ups – TD Bank, couple house, water pipes. 2. Passed our monthly water checks. 3. 315 meters, ran dead end hydrants. 4. Mark Rogers will be cleaning last 2 wells, once weather breaks.

Historian – Al Cormier reported that the Records Management people are here all week. A lot of things to be trashed that are outdated. Bancroft Building and old Village files are next to being sorted, with a follow up of moving things to storage in Courthouse. Historic Preservation Committee presented their list of officers they would like the board to approve: Al Cormier, President; Judy Flagg, Vice President and Christine Preble, Secretary. **Motion** by Councilman Law, seconded by Councilman Blanck to approve the slate of officers as presented, **carried**.

House across from post office and house next to post office have been sold, they are aware of the Historic District.

Public Hearing – 7:15pm – Local Law #1

Sr. Citizen Adjustment Program – Town Clerk, Patricia Gilchrist read the notice from the paper. Exemption will rise from \$24,000 to \$32,399 (will now match county). Will be put into place by 3/1. No questions were asked from the public. **Motion** by Councilman Law, seconded by Councilman Gilchrest to come out of the Public Hearing.

Motion by Councilman Law, seconded by Councilman Gilchrest to approve Local Law #1, **carried**.

Public Hearing – 7:20pm – Local Law #2

Town Clerk, Patricia Gilchrist read the notice from the paper. Jean McLenithan, Assessor; explained how the health care costs will be able to be deducted from the income of Sr. Citizens. This law will also be put into place by 3/1. No questions were asked from the public. **Motion** by Councilman Gilchrest, seconded by Councilman Law to come out of the Public Hearing.

Motion by Councilman Law, seconded by Councilman Blanck to approve Local Law #2, **carried**. Jean McClenithan thanked the board for passing both laws and also thanked Al Cormier for the “cleaning/shredding” of all old paperwork in the office.

Highway – Travis Keys, Hgwy Supt. 1. Dirt roads are having all kinds of issues. Hauled last week to fill mud holes. 2. Making a list of culverts, etc., that will need replacing. A lot more issues than was originally anticipated. Need to look at finances to see how fits in picture? 3. Discussion took place on the replacing of the water truck. Decided that Travis will look at regular cab truck, maybe a ½ ton. 4. Snow removal will take place at the traffic light at 4a.m. tomorrow. 5. Bids for sand and gravel were discussed. After discussion **Motion** by Councilman Gilchrest, seconded by Councilman Blanck to accept BJ farms bid (lower of 2 bids - \$275/yard, Jameson - \$295/yard). **Roll call vote** Councilman Gilchrest, Councilman Blanck, Councilman Law, Supervisor Clary and Councilman Ferguson 5-0, **carried**. 6. Need a ride home from NH for the gradall. 7. At this time we will keep the screen.

Salem Volunteer Fire and Shushan Fire Company – no reports

Salem Rescue Squad – will request a report for next month.

Planning Board – Nothing right now for February, may cancel meeting.

Georgi Museum – Wendy Bordwell updated us on Georgi happenings: 1. Mark Lawson should be submitting a report within the next 2 weeks on the East Asian items. 2. There are 3 weddings and family reunion planned for this summer. Decline from last year. 3. Wendy asked for permission to promote us on 2 different wedding sites – Wedding Wire.com and Eventective. We can do the Eventective on a quarterly advertising. Wedding Wire requires 1 year payment. Possibly at 6 months if nothing materializes, terminate. Feels it would benefit the community. Councilman Gilchrest would like to see the Georgi not being booked every weekend, too much work. Wendy is requesting that she receive a support person to help, when she is not available on Saturdays. She has in mind an individual from Shushan; she will be very good. Need to see if position needs to be advertised (checked handbook Section 400-2. Notification of Vacancies – in the event there is a vacancy in a new or existing position which the Town intends to maintain, the vacancy will be advertised and/or posted and qualified individuals interviewed). We need to post this position along with a cleaner. **Motion** by Councilman Gilchrest, seconded by Councilman Blanck to create a line item in the budget for this position and to remove the \$1200 from GM7450.4, **carried**. 4. LARAC grant is a big cut from what was asked. Hoping to do something for 30th anniversary. 5. Greenway Grant signs – spoke with the sign maker, Kiosk sign Heather Bellanca is finalizing. 6. Kent Foster will put sign in when done, will need an insurance certificate. Need to turn in all paperwork to receive funding back from Greenway. 7. **Motion** by Councilman Ferguson, seconded by Councilman Gilchrest to sign on with Wedding Wire and Eventective. Will review at 6 months and if not happy withdraw. **Roll call vote** Councilman Blanck, Councilman Gilchrest, Supervisor Clary, Councilman Law and Councilman Ferguson 5-0, **carried**.

White Creek Watershed – Tina Fleming spoke on behalf of the committee. Had meetings scheduled in which neither Alton Knapp nor FEMA could come to. On the 27th learned that there is a definite issue with the bridge. Bridge opening is too small. Mrs. Fleming feels the board needs to do something to remedy the situation. Mrs. Fleming also submitted a bill for \$1200 in damage her residence sustained, that was not covered under insurance. This will need to be sent to Town Attorney, insurance company and also forwarded to county since all bridges are owned by the county, vs. town.

Alton Knapp contract – Supervisor Clary read a letter from Mr. Knapp that was submitted with the contract. **Motion** by Councilman Gilchrest, seconded by Councilman Ferguson to accept the contract from Mr. Knapp, **carried**.

FEMA – Supervisor Clary read a letter from FEMA inviting individuals to attend a meeting 3/6 at the county between 1:30-3:00 and 5:30 – 7:00

White Creek Watershed continued – Per Mr. Knapp we need to start dealing with the flood situation and need to start working from the bottom up to the top to get this **rectified**. Councilman Ferguson asked if any discussion has taken place with Parks and Recreation on the

railroad bridges, he will look into this. Much discussion on the issues. Consensus we need to have a special meeting to bring engineers too, vs. town board meeting. Mike Butkowski spoke and said he has been involved with the water issues since 2011. He feels the board has failed to take action and needs to do something. Tina Fleming stated that when the flooding was going on she saw only Supervisor Clary and no board members. County was called and brought in to look at bridge. They are hoping to bring back drones to do another survey. Question was brought up did the county every plan to take out the whole bridge, answer no, only planking.

Dog Control Officer – Town Clerk Gilchrist read the reports submitted.

Supervisor's Report – Fuel Fund Dinner Thursday, February 14th at White Church.

Old Business

- Much discussion on the Sewer Committee, we do not have a Septic Committee. Question as to whether LaBerge has submitted their final report. Some felt they had, LaBerge claims they have not. Stated that all committee meetings need to be advertised, just like board meetings. Sewer Committee has been talking to 3 companies on the feasibility study (LaBerge, Chazen and Delaware). Committee was to find funding for the sewer. LaBerge needs to resolve where the town stands with them. Kathy McKeighan stated that we need to have a Public Hearing to let the people know what's going on. A lot of hearsay and misunderstandings with everyone. It's been stated, in the past, that no \$ will come from town taxpayers, it will only come from those that reside in district. Comment was made that many people do not want the cost, that's why a Public Hearing is needed. **Motion** by Councilman Gilchrest, seconded by Councilman Blanck to have a special meeting on March 20th for the 3 groups to come and present the sewer options, **carried**.
- **Georgi Pay Button** – was discussed. Sara Kelly has been contacted and she will work with Wendy and get this established, as she did the Chamber of Commerce. The issue of having to give a driver's license and any personal information was not well received and county says this should not be done (Express Pay).
- **Dog Control Contract** – Nancy Quell will forward a contract and shelter agreement. The shelter has been deemed satisfactory. Will vote on in March, once all members have had a chance to review.
- **Salem Family Health Center** – Need to obtain a building assessment. Town had an original agreement for 10 years, which expired at the end of 2017. They want to remove item #13 from the contract going forward. Board agreed that they would not remove item #13. Discussion took place on the charging of the firemen for physicals,

- this was to be in exchange for plowing. They did agree to rescind the bill for \$4500. Board asked that we receive maintenance logs, assessments and lists of any improvements they've done to present in March. There is a special, by invite only, meeting on 2/28, which Supervisor Clary was invited to. We need to respond to the letter they have sent. **Motion** by Councilman Law, seconded by Councilman Gilchrest to have Supervisor Clary will speak with Attorney Alan Wrigley and have him send a letter asking for logs and all mentioned above and let them know that we are not removing item #13, **carried**.
- **Hudson Headwaters** – will be visiting on the 28th to check out the building. Any board members that are interested are welcome to attend. GFH has also asked to be present.
- **United Justice Court Grant** – An extension has been granted until 4/30 for the \$17,000 the town has received for a construction project.

New Business

- **Franchise Spectrum** – Kevin Eagan spoke with Supervisor Clary, would like to get a town contract for 15 years. The Village had a figure of \$10,400 in their General Budget, annually for these funding. Mr. Eagan was looking into seeing why this did not transfer to the town, when the Village dissolved. Question arose, did the Village even have a contract. Rebecca Brown to research on old Village end.
- **Tour of Battenkill** – submitted a letter agreement and looking for authorization by board. Supervisor Clary to get a hold of Amy and get this revised. Town cannot authorize use of roads they do not control. Also need an insurance certificate.
- **CT Male** – submitted paperwork stating that their bill would be \$790 for landfill monitoring report. **Motion** by Councilman Gilchrest, seconded by Councilman Law to accept this monitoring cost, **carried**.
- **Eagle Scout Ceremony** - honoring Ryan Pirlot for his work done on the handicap picnic tables at the Georgi. **Motion** by Councilman Ferguson, seconded by Councilman Blanck that Supervisor Clary send a letter congratulating and thanking him, **carried**.
- **Washington County Tourism** – would like and come talk with the board

Public Comments

- **Rotary/Fuel Fund Dinner** - Thursday, February 14.

- **Mike Miller** – questioned Prevailing Wages on the screen/gravel work. To be looked into
- **Salem Health Center** – present 2.5 days, 3/1 will be 2 days with no lab or PT.

Motion by Councilman Gilchrest, seconded by Councilman Blanck to approve the Abstracts (#2) as presented, **carried**.

Motion by Councilman Blanck, seconded by Councilman Gilchrest to approve the Supervisor Reports as presented, **carried**.

There being no further business, meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen E. Chambers
Recording Secretary