

**TOWN OF SALEM**  
**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING-TOWN BOARD**  
**JANUARY 11, 2023**

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

**Others Present:** Travis Keys-Highway/Water; Maurice Patrick-Planning Bd.; Kim Erbe-Planning Bd./Library; Rebecca Brown-Water Clerk/Library; Bob Graham-Salem Fire Dep't.;

**Public Present:** Joe Wever-Salem Fire Dep't.; Jennifer Wever; Elmer Cary-Salem Fire Dep't.; Eli Thetford-Salem Student Rep.; Kylie Austin-Salem Student Rep.; Brady Moffitt-Salem Student Rep.; Mike Miller; Phil Liege

**Absent:** Eric Rogers-Water Dep't.; Judy Flagg-Historian/Records Mg'mt.; Rachel Clothier-Courthouse; Krista Sullivan-Courthouse; Herb Perkins-L, L & P; Jeanne Smith-Georgi; Nancy Quell-DCO

**5:00 P.M.**-Review of **Warrants #1 & Highway Abstract #1 of 2023** for approval & payment

**6:00 P.M.**-Regular monthly meeting called to order (at the conclusion/adjournment of the Organizational Meeting) by Supervisor Clary, followed by Pledge of Allegiance

**Minutes**-No minutes to approve

**Approval of Warrants #1 & Highway Abstract #1 of 2023**-Motion made by Councilman Marcus Blanck, Dunham, seconded by Councilman Howard Law, to approve Warrants #1 & Highway Abstract #1 of 2023 for payment; passed unanimously 5-0

**Attorney David Klingebiel** was present; Board will need to cancel the Public Hearing on the Grant Application for Restore NY-Round #7 & rescind the Resolution to hold said Public Hearing. **Resolution #15-** Motion made by Councilman Marcus Blanck, seconded by Councilwoman Brenda Levey, to cancel the Public Hearing on the Grant Application for Restore NY-Round #7 to be held @ this January 11, 2023, Town Board monthly meeting, beginning @ 6:00 p.m. & to rescind Resolution #107 of 2022, scheduling the Public Hearing for the same; passed unanimously 5-0. Attorney Klingebiel explained that normally on these types of grants the municipality does apply but also has to come up with ten percent (10%) of what is awarded. The normal procedure would be to hire a Grant Administrator for the Grant writing. If the sub-grantee were to default for any reason, normally whatever money was left would be given back. The cost for the Legal Ads in the Post Star was \$74.14.

**Town Clerk Report**-Clerk Gilchrist handed out 2022 yearly report of fees collected: Marriage Licenses-\$227.50; Dog Licenses-\$1,445.00; Dog Impoundment Fees-\$351.29; 14 Birth Certified copies-\$140; 122 Death Certified copies-\$1,222; 10 Marriage Certified copies-\$130; 4-Minor Subdivisions-\$425; 13-Site Plan Review Applications-\$975.00; Total for Town-\$4,915.79

Paid to NYS Agriculture & Markets for Animal Population Control Program-\$188; Paid to NYS Dep't. of Health-\$292.50

Report will be filed

**Salem Fire Dep't.**-Present were Joe Wever; Elmer Cary; Chief Bob Graham & Auxiliary member Jen Wever to discuss the Lease Agreement on the old Carnival Grounds. They suggested that the Agreement run month to month until a new Agreement is reached, the firemen decide to vacate the premises, or the Town of Salem does not choose to renew the Lease. Councilwoman Dunham inquired as to why the 99-year Lease term; it just seems to be a very long time & does not seem very beneficial to either party. Attorney Klingebiel advised that the 99-year term was not 93 but that his advice was to go w/a year to year renewal. A committee could be formed between the Town Board & the Fire Dep't. Councilman Howard Law asked if a special meeting

could be held w/the Town Board & the Board of Trustees of the Salem Fire Dep't. It was decided that a special meeting would be held on Thursday, January 26, 2023, @ 6:00 p.m. at the Salem Fire House.

**Salem Fire Dep't.** Chief Graham reported 27 calls for December, 2022: 6-EMS assist; 14-Hazardous condition; 1-water rescue; 1-MVA; 1-alarm malfunction; 1-priority one echo; 1-good intent; 2-Mutual Aid calls 1-Cambridge-MVA; 1-Rupert-stand-by (Have had 9 calls already for January, 2023)

It is costing approximately \$3,000/person for turn-out gear (just coats & pants); yearly physicals done on 01/09/23

**Training**-Station maintenance; make-up training for year

**OSHA Mandates**-Fit testing; ladder testing

**Fundraising**-Breakfast w/Santa & Firehouse

**Total hours for year**-9,072

**Year-end Report for 2022 also provided by Chief Graham.**

**Reports will be filed.**

**Water**-No report sent. Travis reported new chemical pumps have been ordered & the well deck sensor is in. Still no work from the Contractor on the tank railing/ladder. Had yearly D/O/H inspection Nov./Dec.; all was well. Put well #3 back on-line. Power went out at Water Treatment Plant but the generator worked well. 4<sup>th</sup> quarter iron & manganese testing was done & everything was good for all 3 wells being under MCL limits

**Highway**-Travis reported the weather had been lousy over Christmas & he is still down two employees. Areas are soft & messy! Trucks seem to be doing well & guys are working hard. Will need to put bids out soon for screening sand/gravel for Spring. Prices still increasing: tires, steel & many parts. Need to think about upgrading the 2018 blue pick-up, plow & sander. Starting to have trouble w/them & repair costs will be high. Need to meet w/the Highway Committee to review the equipment replacement & upgrade plan.

Hopefully, 3002 Tandem will be here in the early Spring. There was a committee meeting (w/Towns sharing the hot box) regarding the hot box--possible upgrade w/new hot box. Eleven of thirteen signs have come back & new ones have been ordered. Travis will prepare a price list. (He already provided a list of missing signs w/ locations: 7 posts; 9 signs; 8 street names.) Need new Agreement for plowing/snow & ice removal w/ Washington County department of Public Works for 2023-**Motion made by Councilman Howard Law**, seconded by Councilman Marcus Blanck, to sign the 2023 Agreement for plowing, sanding, and/or removal of snow and/or ice on NYS roads during the winter of 2022-2023 between the Washington County Department of Public Works & the Town of Salem; passed unanimously 5-0.

There will be no plowing of County Route 153 by the Town of Salem. Leaf pick-up is only in the former Village of Salem--not Shushan.

TOPS money under PAVE-NY-Available to do sidewalks by Catholic church; done w/CHIPS money

Short work report for January, 2023 & daily work report for December, 2022 will be filed

**Georgi Report**-New cameras were put up at Community Room by Councilwoman Dunham & husband, Pete. Councilwoman Levey reported that there was a young man interested in doing an Eagle Scout project at the Georgi. Possibly putting up signs that would tell what fish are in the Battenkill. He could also work w/Lindsey from Soil & Water. LARAC Grant has been applied for; Councilwoman Dunham provided estimates on two lifts. Smaller lift-\$13,930; larger lift-\$28,480.00; specs & quotes sent out prior.

Jeanne Smith reported that the propane heater in the bathroom was found eft on after the plumber had been there; propane tank checked. Councilman Law will turn off the propane at the tank. This should be added to the end-of-the season shut-down list (making sure heater in bathroom & thermostat in kitchen are shut off).

When using the heaters again, the pilot lights will need to be lit.

Vandalism of two picnic tables--benches removed.

Beavers are moving back in, as some of the trees are showing signs of their presence.

Garbage down by riverbank; a tire will need to be removed.

Butch Gilcrest will reset the park lights as they have come on during the daylight hours since the power outage.

Report will be filed.

**Planning Board/Zoning**-Kim Erbe, Clerk of Planning Bd., reports that there might be a roof-mount solar application to review (none turned in as of yet).

**Hudson Headwaters Purchase**-Will need to see the sub-division map on Albert Sheldon's parcel of the smaller piece to be sub-divided. Map #209.-1-49 is currently in an Agricultural District; Hudson Headwaters would like 1.2-1.8 +/- acre piece from the total of 114 +/- acres. Will probably need a Public Hearing. It does not comply currently w/zoning. Is the septic in the Ag District? Attorney Klingebiel & attorney for Hudson Headwaters are working diligently on the problems. The word 'clinic' could be added to the Mixed-Use District as a Special Use.

**Bancroft Library**-Rebecca reports that there is a bat in the basement. Southern Adirondack Library System is going for a grant for lighting. The library is also going 'fine free'.

**Historian's Report**-Judy Flagg provided report. Responded to numerous internet inquiries, mainly Genealogy questions/research. Expanded upon the 'Voices from the Grave' project @ the Revolutionary War Cemetery (three new voices have been added). WTEN came in October to film a segment at the cemetery, featuring the 'Voices from the Grave'. Over \$10,000 was spent in 2022 on restorative efforts in this cemetery. Repairs were made to over 24 historic headstones at the site. Hopefully, more restorative work will continue in spring of 2023 by Joe Ferrannini of Grave Stone Matters.

Al Cormier's book, "The Heart of Salem", was released. The first edition has nearly sold out; all proceeds are earmarked for cemetery restoration.

**Historic Preservation Commission**-Chris Preble; John Clark; Michele Bardwell; Kay Crank; Judy Flagg-Chair Projects reviewed/acted upon during 2022: Central House renovation plans; On a Limb exterior updates/renovations & new signage; outdoor seating @ Jacko's; OnDaWa building-new roof; Community Fellowship-new signage; Memorial/Veteran's Park-new signage

Complete inventory photographic inventory of homes/bldgs. in Historic District was performed by Tom McMorris. Photos will be used as a part of an Architectural History/Identification project planned for spring of 2023. Bill Krattinger, NYS Division of Historic Preservation, will assist Judy in presenting architectural features of several of these historical structures as a key to dating/identifying the homes within the district. A program will also be presented to the public.

Report will be filed.

**Courthouse**-Annual Report provided from December 2021-December 2022.

January 17, 2023-Courthouse has meeting w/their Board; new appointments will be made at that time.

**Porch work**-Wash. County Code Enforcement rejected the stamped drawing for the porch repair. This will need to be corrected to move forward to obtain the building permit.

**Historian Room** in the Courthouse-needs reviewing; the Courthouse would like to use it for other events. Need to make sure Judy is notified to insure that the records in the room are secure.

**DCO Report**-Nancy Quell provided report for December, 2022. 1-Call re neighbor's dog is being aggressive; dog has electric collar so Nancy called neighbor to make sure the collar was working properly 1-call on missing 6-yr. old brindle plot hound on Blind Buck Rd. (does have electric collar on); 1-call from dispatch about a beagle on front steps of 1668 County Route 64 (picked up); found owner of dog & he needs to license before dog can be released. 1-call from Perry Hill resident that there are two dogs running around her property daily (she thinks they are coming from Steele Rd.); Nancy posted on Facebook & found owners, who were on Steele Rd.; they were advised to hook up the dogs. Report will be filed.

**SUPERVISOR'S REPORT**-Supervisor Clary advised that the Linke bankruptcy that was filed on all property owned by him before the morning of the tax sale was thrown out of Court; Wash. Co. will now own all the properties. They should come up for tax sale in June or July of 2023.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Opening of County Route 61 Bridge**-Ribbon-cutting ceremony & opening of bridge held on Tuesday, 01/10/2023, w/speeches by Deb Donohue-Wash. Co. DPW Sup't.; Sue Clary-Salem Supervisor; Jay Skellie-Jackson Supervisor; Poem Reading by Keith Bleicher; Group photo w/ribbon cutting & toast; parade to Yushak's store for refreshments. Lots of kids present, who each received a piece of the cut ribbon! Everyone glade the bridge is open!

**Master Plan**-Did grant through Chazen to prepare a new Master Plan for Town of Salem; we did not receive the grant.

**Update on Climate Smart Community Project**-Councilman Law reported that the University of Pennsylvania Master students will be presenting their findings at the February or March meeting. He will pin down what month is best.

**LED Lighting in Shushan & Salem** has been very well received. Should save T/O/S quite a bit of money vs. old lights.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Town Signs**-Need to remove the leaf garland around the sign on Black Creek Road

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**NYMIR Insurance Review**-Henry van den Heever, who is a Senior Risk Specialist w/NYMIR Insurance, sent a letter to Supervisor Clary w/recommendations on some issues he found:

**Town Court**-Install emergency lighting units above each exit door in this area to assist in safe evacuation of the room in the event of a power failure after dark.

**Georgi on the Battenkill Seesaw**-Provide suitable fall protection underneath the seesaw (sand or wood chips) to a distance of 6 feet around its perimeter. Place partial car tires, or some other shock-absorbing material, in the ground underneath the seats, or secured on the underside of the seats to prevent crushing injuries. Said changes would ensure the equipment meets NY public playground safety standards. Alternatively-remove the seesaw from the grounds.

**Insurance Certificate-Alcohol-George**-It is suggested that the Georgi Rental Contract be amended to require a Certificate of Insurance attesting to Host Liquor Liability Insurance from any organization who reserves park facilities for a special event where alcohol will be served. This would be in addition to the General Liability Insurance certificate currently required.

**Fire Protection Agreement**-It is recommended that the Fire Protection Agreement w/Shushan Volunteer Fire Dep't. contain a hold-harmless & indemnification clause in favor of the Town, & a requirement that the Fire Dep't. maintain adequate insurance limits with the Town listed as an Additional Insured. Failure to do this could expose the Town to a serious loss in the event of a failure of the Fire Dep't. to properly respond to a fire emergency. Contract should be revised, upon renewal, w/the assistance of the Town's attorney to include these protections.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS-**

**Re-Val**-Joe Wever asked how was Town going to keep tax rate @ 100% now that we were there; would presume a re-val would have to be done every 3-4 years. Currently \$12-\$15/parcel

**Mike Miller-Beattie Hollow Road Conditions**-The road is dirt & nothing has been done to improve the conditions; water can't get to the new culverts. Trees need to be trimmed, too. A resident on the road has put in two loads of gravel to try & improve conditions. Dunigan Road is also a mess. Travis responded that

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there wasn't very much frost, if any, in the ground & everything was a mushy mess. He is down two men & trying his best to keep up.

**Phil Liege**, who also lives on Beattie Hollow Road, says there is a lot of sand on the road from prior winters. Can sand be removed? How can the situation be improved? As a resident of the road, he is willing to listen to any suggestions.

**Motion to Adjourn**-**Motion made by** Councilman Marcus Blanck, seconded by Councilman Howard Law, to adjourn the regular monthly meeting of the Salem Town Board; passed unanimously 5-0. Meeting adjourned @ 8:01 pm.

**Next Meeting**- of the Salem Town Board will be a special meeting to discuss financials on Wednesday, Jan. 18, 2023, @ 5:00 p.m. in Proudfit Hall; 181 Main Street; Salem, NY 12865

**Next Meeting**-will be a special meeting between the Salem Town Board & the Board of Trustees of the Salem Volunteer Fire Dep't. on Thursday, 01/26/2023, beginning @ 6:00 p.m. at the Salem Fire House to discuss the Lease Agreement on the former Carnival Grounds.

**Regular Monthly Meeting** of the Salem Town Board will be held on February 15, 2023, @ Proudfit Hall; 181 Main Street; Salem, NY, beginning @ 5:00 p.m. for review of Warrants #2 & Highway Abstract #2 for payment; regular business meeting to be called to order @ 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Patricia A. Gilchrist-Town Clerk  
Town of Salem

