

**TOWN OF SALEM**  
**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING-TOWN BOARD**  
**MAY 17, 2023**

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

**Others Present:** Travis Keys-Highway/Water; Kim Erbe-Planning Bd./Library; Moe Patrick-Planning Bd.; Jeanne Smith-Georgi; Rebecca Brown-Water Clerk/Library; Larry Haber-Economic Development Comm.; Jim Carrolan-Sewer Comm.

**Public Present:** Joe Wever-Salem Fire Dep't.; Elmer Carey-Salem Fire Dep't.; Josh Draroff-CDRPC; Zhao Lio-UPenn Student; Annisa Nurantono-UPenn Student; Andrew Wraith-UPenn Student; Dr. Sally Willig-UPenn; Dr. Yvette Bordeaux-UPenn; Eric Hudson; Lisa Hudson

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

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

**5:40 P.M.**-Financials were reviewed for the Georgi & Highway; Clerk to Supervisor Kathy Chambers handed out copies to all Board members. A & E Landscaping may have to charge more for mowing @ the Georgi if he has to weed whack around playground equipment. Kathy also showed the Georgi deferred revenue balances as of 04/30/2023 of \$15,395 & the Carlson Gallery furniture sold of \$16,900. Highway accounts were reviewed, also. Questions asked & answered; Travis seems to be doing o.k. right now. CHIPS paperwork will be filled out soon so the Town can get re-imbursed for money spent so far this year.

**6:00 P.M.**-Regular monthly meeting called to order by Supervisor Clary, followed by Pledge of Allegiance

**PUBLIC PRESENTATION**-Dr. Yvette Bordeaux from UPenn explained that there was a total of 58 masters students who worked on putting together on the Climate Smart Communities Program, culminating with the bound booklet that was presented to all Board members prior to this presentation. Also present was Josh Dranoff of the Capital District Regional Planning Commission. Yvette introduced Zhao Liu, Annisa Nurantono, & Andrew Wraith, who were involved w/the project. A resolution must be passed to adopt the NYS Climate Smart Communities Pledge, which includes 10 Pledge Elements. The Pledge Elements/Actions are listed on pages 16 & 17 in the report. A CSC Task Force w/a coordinator must be formed. Zhao reported that currently 381 communities are presently involved in the Climate Smart program. NYS is a leader in climate change & reducing Greenhouse emissions, which is the part of the program he worked with, as well as working w/a Comprehensive Community Plan. He suggested the Board check out the Silver Action Plan.

Annisa reported that she also worked w/how to reduce Greenhouse emissions, as well as climate action.

Andrew reported that he worked on Riparian Buffers--planting vegetation along streams, for a 2 to 6-point value. Tree plantings could also be done. This would be an easy to do project at a low cost & many grants are available for this type of work, especially since there has been significant flooding in this area. All the students reported their hope that the Town Board would vote to do the Climate Smart Program, using some of their research projects & suggestions. Supervisor Clary thanked both Dr. Bordeaux & the students present for all their hard work & for providing copies of the report. The Board will be discussing the project at the June monthly Board meeting.

**Minutes-04/19/2023- Motion made by Councilman Marcus Blanck, seconded by Councilwoman Laura Dunham, to approve the regular monthly meeting minutes of 04/19/2023; passed 4-0 w/Councilman Law abstaining as he was absent from that meeting.**

**Approval of Warrants #5 & Highway Abstract #5 for payment-Motion made by Councilman Howard Law, seconded by Councilman Marcus Blanck, to approve Warrants #5 & Highway Abstract #5 for payment, minus the Delaware Engineering voucher for the sewer study; passed unanimously 5-0.**

**Resolutions from Clerk to Supervisor Kathy Chambers:**

**Resolution #35a-Motion made by Councilman Marcus Blanck, seconded by Councilwoman Brenda Levey, for a Budget Increase as follows:**

DA601-Deferred Revenues	\$ 66,468.50	
DA960-Appropriations		\$ 66,468.50
DA5130.2 Machinery		

Passed unanimously 5-0

**Resolution #36-Motion made by Councilman Howard Law, seconded by Councilwoman Brenda Levey, for a Transfer as follows:**

DA5110.1-General Repairs	\$ 5,000.00	
DA5110.11 General Repairs		\$ 5,000.00

Passed unanimously 5-0

**Resolution #37-Motion made by Councilman Howard Law, seconded by Councilwoman Laura Dunham, for a Budget Increase-ARPA Funds as follows (Salem Rescue Squad-expenditures in April):**

A510-Estimated Revenues	\$ 29,181.39	
A4089 ARPA		
A960-Appropriations		\$ 29,181.39
A1620.4-Contractual		

Passed unanimously 5-0

**Highway-**Travis emailed report to everyone. Doing grading/gravelling every day they have been able to. Roads/streets have all been swept; rental of the sweeper was split w/Easton (cost was about \$700 each). Mowing tractor still out; working on a format for the capital equipment plan. New pick-up flat truck is here & will be set up w/toolboxes to be used as a service truck. Will be installing a liquid tank on it for the winter & using it in the former Village. I will be sending the blue truck out for body work rather than listing it. NYS passed its Budget & CHIPS letter has been rec'd & a copy is attached w/this report. Still two full-time spots open w/the Highway Depot. Travis sent an e-mail out to everyone early in the am on 05/17/2023 (the day of the meeting). Auction closed on the Western Star last night (05/16/2023) & it only brought \$40,500 after taking off buyer's premium. I feel it is worth way more than that, & I would like to put in a counteroffer for \$150,000. Can put on Auction's Int'l. next but Town needs to get more than the \$40,500. Got go ahead to put in counter- offer & list on Auction's Int'l. Report will be filed.

**Water-** Eric emailed report to everyone. Still 319 meters in service, w/no new water hook-ups for month of April. Regular upkeep/maintenance performed; new pumps working well. Eye wash & fire extinguisher checks done; had a few dig safe mark-outs; monthly water sample 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. Flushing of hydrants went well during vacation week in April. Well #1 will need cleaning this year & the hope is to be able to get this accomplished soon. Eric will be attending water school to keep up on his water credits. Second quarter Iron-Manganese testing will be due sometime in June.

Report will be filed.

**Salem Volunteer Fire Dep't., Inc.-**12 calls for month of April; 7-Salem (2-EMS assist; 1-service call; 1-priority one echo; 1-good intent; 1-alarm malfunction; 1-carbon monoxide call); 5-Mutual Aid calls (1-Cambridge-grass/brush; 2-Hebron-grass/brush; 1-standby; 1-Rupert-grass/brush; 1-Shushan-standby)

**Training**-Station maintenance; pump training & driver training  
**Schools**-three members taking interior firefighting class in Argyle

**Page 3**

**May 17, 2023 Minutes**

**Fund Raising**-Sunday breakfast

**Total Hours**-2,128.5

Report will be filed.

**Historian's report**-No report

**Courthouse**-Committees working on LL&P & Al Fresco dinner; Courthouse to do the July 4<sup>th</sup> parade this year, along w/a carnival on the grounds of the Courthouse. Krista Sullivan is organizing so call the Courthouse if you are willing to help!

**Georgi**-Jeanne Smith e-mailed report. Bathrooms were opened to the public on May 1, 2023. Thursday, 05/18/2023, is Service Day w/students from Salem Central School. Kids can fix the picnic table benches, sanding & painting of the same, along w/ painting of the picnic tables; repair the Fairy sign support leg; seeding of the parking lot.

May 20, 2023-Plant Sale @ the Georgi from 9-Noon.

Matt Parker doing some handyman jobs: worked on code lock door, which was replaced but is still causing issues; fixed ceiling sheetrock in hallway & painted the hall & hallway ceiling w/white & yellow paint; made kitchen cupboard doors (there were none prior), added hardware & painted the same. Tried gluing the tabletop on the cement table outside the CR but it did not work!

Alternative sentencing working w/gardener, Sandy Adams, as well as painting the exterior of the CR & any other painting that might need doing.

Butch Gilcrest changed the pole light timers. Probably should look at replacing the pole light bulbs w/LEDs to save money on electricity & increase what can be seen on the security cameras.

Washington County DPW has been working on drainage on Adams Lane; gravel just added making it better for traffic coming in & out. Three more CR rentals are in the works; Councilwoman Dunham updated the contract w/the minimum liability insurance coverage going from \$1 million to \$2 million. Donation of \$225 was rec'd. Someone called Jeanne & wanted to take wedding pictures only on the Georgi grounds on 08/05/23 (wedding will **NOT** be held there). Board said if there was a chance to rent it on that date, then a no-go on the pictures.

**Playground Committee**-Frame for swing set up & will still need securing in the ground. Garden by the rock was cleaned out by a group of volunteers.

**Newsletter**-Councilwoman Dunham did the newsletter & it is on Facebook; no mail-outs this year.

Report will be filed.

**Scheduled Dates:**

06/03/23-Prom pictures on grounds	08/12/23-C.R. Rental
06/15/23-Country Night w/Al & Kathy Bain	08/19/23-Wedding-Park & C.R.
06/24/23-Wedding-Park & C.R.	09/03/23-Wedding scheduled but was cancelled.
07/15/23-Wedding-Park & C.R.	Pd. security deposit & ½ rental fee
07/29/23-Wedding-Park & C.R.	09/29/23-Wedding-Park & C.R.
08/03/23-Wash. Co. Band in Park	10/14/23 or 10/21/23-Art & Music in Park

**Planning Board**-Two Site Plan applications & one sub-division for the May meeting.

**Economic Development**-Held a meeting in the T/O; looked @ Linke properties coming up for auction. There is a lien on mill in Shushan & the old post office is full of junk! County has now padlocked & posted it. There is also a 1-acre piece on the T/O/S side by the Covered Bridge Museum. Also talked about the possibility of a charging station in Salem.

**Library**-Fencing looks great; a big thank-you to Bill & Ray for putting up the sign. Brenda brought in several carpet samples to look at.

**Sewer Committee**-Committee meeting was held on 05/08/2023 in Town Office @ 2 pm. Special District formation proposal will be discussed from the Preliminary Engineering Study done by Delaware Engineering. It was brought up that 2:00 pm, the current scheduled time of the committee meetings, was not a convenient time as most people work & meetings must be open to the public. Meeting will be changed to 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of every month @ 6:30 pm in Proudfit Hall, if available, & if convenient w/ Chairman, Tauno Wirkki. Next meeting will be Wednesday, 06/01/23, @ 6:30 pm in Proudfit Hall.

**DCO**-Nancy Quell provided report for month of April: 8-Calls/Site Visits for Salem; 3-Shushan Most complaints were barking dogs; dogs in yards that didn't belong there. One Salem call was a bay horse loose on Riley Hill Road. Report will be filed.

**SUPERVISOR'S REPORT**-Supervisor Clary reported that the on-line only meeting has been held on the new FEMA flood maps that were in progress.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Washington Co. 2023 Youth Sports "Let's Get Physical" program**-Lunch, Learn n Play award acceptance of \$4,000; Trevor LeBlanc will be conducting the program. **Resolution #38-Motion made by** Councilwoman Laura Dunham, seconded by Councilman Marcus Blanck, to accept the \$4,000 Washington County Youth Sports Award for the "Let's Get Physical" program to be conducted through Lunch, Learn n Play; passed unanimously 5-0.

**Washington County Youth Bureau-Motion made by** Councilwoman Laura Dunham, seconded by Councilwoman Brenda Levey to accept the \$586.00 received from the Youth Bureau for the Lunch, Learn, n Play program; passed unanimously 5-0.

**SWA Community Service Day**-May 18, 2023, for projects in & around the former Village & Shushan w/the Salem Central School students, being coordinated thru Carol McPhee at school. They will be painting chairs, doing the flowers in the planters, mulching, etc. **Motion made by** Councilman Marcus Blanck, seconded by Councilwoman Laura Dunham, approving \$2,000 to the Salem Chamber of Commerce, using money from ARPA funds, to pay for painting & fixing chairs, mulch, & flowers; passed unanimously 5-0.

**Grievance Day**-will be held May 24, 2023, in the Town Office from 4-8 pm with Assessor Jean McLenithan & the Board of Assessment Review: Tauno Wirkki-Chairman; John Bardwell; Neil Adams

**Charter Communications Franchise Agreement**-The former Village had an agreement & rec'd. money from Charter but when the Village dissolved, the Town rec'd. no money from them. This would be a new ten-year franchise agreement with a set amount paid to the Town-5% of the gross revenue. Supervisor Clary will send the same to Attorney Klingebiel for review. A Public Hearing needs to be scheduled for the same.

**Resolution #39-Motion made by** Councilman Marcus Blanck, seconded by Councilman Howard Law, to schedule a Public Hearing for 6:00 pm on Wednesday, June 21, 2023, at the regular monthly meeting of the Salem Town Board to be held @ Proudfit Hall; 181 Main Street; Salem, NY; passed unanimously 5-0

**Proclamation for Bob Akland-HSCPA**-Volunteer Day will be held at the Salem Courthouse on 06/09/23 from 6-8 pm. Bob Akland, former President & community volunteer, will be honored that night & Supervisor Clary would like to do a Proclamation from the Town Board. **Motion made by** Councilwoman Laura Dunham, seconded by Councilwoman Brenda Levey, to do a Proclamation for Bob Akland for all his years serving the Courthouse & the Salem community; passed unanimously 5-0.

**Resolution for Northern Borders Regional Commission**-The NBRC provides funding assistance thru

The Catalyst Program to stimulate economic growth across the northern border region. Since the Town is seeking a municipal sewer system to support said economic growth, the Town is eligible to apply for funding thru the NBRC program. A Resolution is needed to allow Supervisor Clary to sign the NBRC application and, if awarded the grant, to sign all NBRC investment documents. **Resolution #40-Motion made by Council-**

**Page 5**

**May 17, 2023 Minutes**

woman Laura Dunham, seconded by Councilwoman Brenda Levey, allowing Supervisor Clary to apply for funding & sign the NBRC Grant application, as well as sign all investment documents for the Town of Salem if awarded funding; passed 4-1, with Councilman Marcus Blanck voting No.

**Special District Formation Municipal Sewer**-A Resolution is needed to accept the proposed district as presented by Delaware Engineering in the Draft Engineering Report. **Resolution #41-Motion made by** Councilwoman Laura Dunham, seconded by Councilman Howard Law, to accept the proposed District as presented by Delaware Engineering in the Draft Engineering Report; passed 4-1, with Councilman Marcus Blanck voting No.

**ARPA Funding for Shushan Volunteer Fire Dep't.-Resolution #42-Motion made by** Councilman Howard Law, seconded by Councilman Marcus Blanck, to approve \$20,000 requested towards the side-by-side for the Shushan Volunteer Fire Dep't. as follows:

A4089-ARPA	\$ 20,000.00	
A1620.4-Bldgs. (Contractual)		\$ 20,000.00
Shushan Volunteer Fire Dep't.		

Passed unanimously 5-0

**EV Charging Stations Grant Research**-Supervisor Clary would like to research a grant for the same thru NYSEDA; the Board said go ahead & do the research. John Bardwell, a member on the Economic Committee, feels this should be looked at.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Charles R. Wood Foundation Grant**-Rec'd. notification that the Town did not receive the Grant for the Georgi Museum; a more comprehensive business plan is needed for 2024. The Foundation thanked the Town for all their hard work & said to apply again next year.

**Salem Fire Dep't.-Diesel Fuel-Town Barn**-Joe Wever reported that new keys were needed for the Fire Dep't. to use the diesel fuel, located at the Town Barn. Could ARPA funds be used to pay the bill of \$348.17? **Motion made by** Councilman Howard Law, seconded by Councilman Marcus Blanck, agreeing that ARPA Fund money could be used for the new keys required at the diesel tank used by the Salem Volunteer Fire Dep't. at the Town Barn. **Roll Call Vote:** Councilman Howard Law-Yes; Councilman Marcus Blanck-Yes; Councilwoman Brenda Levey-Yes; Supervisor Evera Sue Clary-Yes; Councilwoman Laura Dunham-No; passed 4-1

**Salem Fire Dep't. Contract for Fire Protection & Lease of Carnival Grounds Agreement**- Will both be discussed next month.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**-Lisa & Eric Hudson were present to discuss what they feel is an on-going problem at their residence on North Main Street. The Sheriff's Dep't. is policing loud music, which they don't feel is the job of the Sheriff's Dep't., especially since the Town has no Noise Ordinance or Local Law monitoring the same. Lisa has a small Echo Dot that she plays music from but not at full sound. There are plenty of other noises in the area like barking dogs, loud trucks passing through, agriculture equipment up & down Rte. 22. Fireworks are also being set off in the early am hours—1 am or so. It seems like the Sheriff's Dep't. is only citing them for noise & no one else. Eric asked if there was a Zoning Enforcement Officer, which there is not—only a Compliance Officer for Zoning. They both thanked the Town Board for their time & listening to their concerns. Both plan on attending the Washington County Board of Supervisors meeting Friday, May 19, 2023, at the Municipal Center in Fort Edward.

**Motion to Adjourn**-Motion made by Councilwoman Laura Dunham, seconded by Councilman Marcus Blanck, to adjourn the regular monthly meeting of the Salem Town Board; passed unanimously 5-0; meeting adjourned @ 8:22 pm.

**Page 6**

**May 17, 2023 Minutes**

**Next Regular Monthly Meeting** will be held on Wednesday, June 21, 2023, @ Proudfit Hall; 181 Main St.; Salem, NY, beginning @ 5:00 pm for review of Warrants #6 & Highway Abstract #6 for payment. The regular business meeting will be called to order @ 6:00 pm, with a Public Hearing on the Charter Communications Franchise Agreement.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia A. Gilchrist-Town Clerk  
Town of Salem

