

TOWN OF SALEM
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING-TOWN BOARD
FEBRUARY 21, 2024

Present: Supervisor Evera Sue Clary; Town Council: Howard Law; Wyeth Coburn; Tom McMorris; Town Clerk-Pat Gilchrist; Clerk to Supervisor-Kathy Chambers

Others Present: Travis Keys-Highway/Water; Kim Erbe-Planning/Library; Herb Perkins-Courthouse; Larry Haber-Economic Development; Kay Tomasi-Economic Development/Sewer Comm.; Rebecca Brown-Water Clerk/Library

Public Present: Joe Wever-Salem Vol. Fire Dep't., Inc.; Ken Colombraro-Salem Vol. Fire Dep't.; Ray Fairley-Salem Vol. Fire Dep't.; Elmer A. Cary, III-Salem Vol. Fire Dep't.; William Linendoll-Salem Vol. Fire Dep't.; Greg Fifield-Salem Vol. Fire Dep't.; Margaret Getty-Keyes-Salem Vol. Fire Dep't. Aux.; Lisa Ramos; David Ramos; Nate Jill Robertson; Nate Kindel; Pete Carrolan

Absent-Town Councilwoman Brenda Levey; Eric Rogers-Water Dep't.; Judy Flagg-Historian/Records Mg'mt. (Ex.); Al Cormier-Deputy Hist./Records Mg'mt.; Moe Patrick-Planning Bd.; Jeanne Smith-Georgi; Steve Saunders-Salem Fire Dep't. (report provided); Jim Carrolan-Sewer Comm.; Nancy Quell-DCO

5:00 P.M.-Review of **Warrants #2 & Highway Abstract #2 of 2024** for approval & payment

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

Approval of Minutes-12/20/2023; 12/27/2023; 01/03/24; 01/17/24-Wait on approval

Approval of Warrants #2 & Highway Abstract #2 of 2024 for payment-Motion made by Councilman Tom McMorris, seconded by Councilman Howard Law, to approve Warrants #2 & Highway Abstract #2 of 2024 for payment, except for the Seeley bill for the copier/fax/scanner; passed unanimously 5-0.

Resolution #19-Motion made by Councilman Howard Law, seconded by Councilman Wyeth Coburn, for a Budget increase as follows:

A206-Community Assistance (Poor Fund)	\$ 4,000.00
A1620.4-Office	
Food Pantry	\$ 2,000.00
Fuel Fund	\$ 2,000.00

Passed 4-0

PUBLIC COMMENT

Salem Volunteer Fire Dep't.-President Ken Colombraro was the spokesperson for the fire dep't. re-garding the letter that was sent to the Town Board asking to be removed the proposed sewer district project as the building is new & the system was an engineered, approved project, fully approved by Washington County Code Enforcement & NYS Dep't. of Health. Their system was built to hold more when installed. Willie Linendoll asked: "Will the Town increase the fire protection contract or will the fire dep't. have to do more fund raising?" Ken also reported a Site Plan Application had gone through the T/O/S Planning Board for approval & Kim Erbe, Clerk of the Planning Board, had the paperwork.

Town Law, section 12-12A, governs the sewer district & says if you are in the district, you are part of it. Like the Water District, the debt service charge is mandatory for all, whether hooked in or not. There will also be a usage charge but it has not yet been determined if both charges will be billed on the January tax bill or only the debt service, like the water usage is currently, with a separate billing for usage. May not have to connect immediately to the system. Members of the dep't. thanked the Board for their support, said it was much

appreciated but with costs going up all the time for turn-out gear, etc., they just could not go w/o a larger increase in the fire protection contract. The Board thanked them for their time, questions, & input.

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Speed Limit on NYS Route 22- David Ramos, Linda Ramos & Jill Robertson were present to let the Board know their concerns w/the speed limit. David said they believe the speed limit as it currently stands @ 55 mph is too high, whether Hudson Headwaters is coming in or not. Supervisor Clary reported that Venture Engineering (on behalf of HHHN) was working w/NYS Dep't. of Transportation on a proposal to lower the speed limit, as suggested by the T/O/S, to 30 mph, beginning at Albert Sheldon's farm stand, w/another sign posted by what is currently Bacchur Fellowship. Travis Keys, Highway Sup't., responded by saying that the road was a NYS highway & he, as Highway Sup't., had no authority to put signs up reducing the speed limit anywhere on Rte. 22. NYS Dep't. of Transportation will evaluate the request put in by Venture Engineering, do their own study, & come up w/a conclusion. This will not be a speedy process & could take upwards of two years to complete. Venture Engineering is also working w/NYS D/O/T on the entrance into HHHN from NYS Rte. 22.

Compliance Officer Report-Mario sent a report covering period 01/16/-02/12/2024. LRCC-1's signed-3; LRCC-2's signed-2; County Code Enforcement confirmed newly built garage on Perry Hill Rd. does have an Ag Exemption; report will be filed.

Shushan Volunteer Fire Dep't.-Fire Chief Tom Cassidy provided January, 2024 report. Total fire calls: 5; Mutual Aid Calls-1

Training-ice water rescue (state); Officer (state); swift water rescue (in-house)

Hours-Fire Calls-18; Training-state-88; **Total hours-36**

Report will be filed

Salem Volunteer Fire Dep't., Inc.-11 calls for January, 2024: 8-Salem Fire District (5- EMS related); 1-Jackson (chimney fire); 1-MVA; 1-Hazardous Condition (Wires/Trees); report will be filed

Salem Rescue Squad-Vicki Campbell, Captain, provided January report for the Squad. Calls-61

Salem-35; Hebron-18; VT-3; Jackson-4; Saratoga-1

Disposition: GFH-24; Saratoga-12; RMA-8; SVMC-5; Lift Assist-3; RRMC-3; Cancel-1; Class 17-2; Stand-by-1; Residence-1; No PT-1

Total year-to-date calls-61; report will be filed.

Courthouse-Herb emailed minutes to everyone from the 02/07/2024 board meeting. Since this meeting, the HSCPA board approved the partnership for the April Fools Race for this year. Work has begun w/the school & several enthusiastic volunteers, including Dan Snyder, who is chairing the event, & Wyeth Coburn, who will be working w/Dan. A list was provided to all at our meeting w/upcoming events at the Courthouse:

March 15-Friday-Folklife Concert Series, w/Northern Resonances, from 7-8:30 p.m.

March 19-May 18-Girls on the Run

March 27-Friday-Folklike Concert Series w/Jocelyn Pettit & Ellen Gira, from 7-8:30 p.m.

April 5-Friday-On-lin Auction w/in-person viewing

April 7-Sunday-Music from Salem

April 13-Saturday-April Fool's Race @ Salem Central School

April 19-Friday-Folklife Concert Series w/Crossroads of Sound, from 7-8:30 p.m.

April 21; May 19; June 2-Chamber Music Series w/Dan & Kaori Shulman

April 26-Friday-Folklife Concert Series, w/Ukrainian Village Voices, from 7-8:30 p.m.

May 3-Friday-Opening reception w/artist (T/B/D), 5:00 p.m.

May 10-Folklife Concert Series w/Joy Clark, from 7-8:30 p.m.

June 7-Friday-Opening Reception w/artist (T/B/D), 5:00 p.m.

June 13-Thursday-Muti Chamber Mixer, 5:00 p.m.

July 4-Thursday-Parade, followed by carnival on the HSCPA grounds

July 5-Friday-Opening Reception w/artist (T/B/D), 5:00 p.m.

July 8-Aug. 9-Lunch, Learn & Play will run

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July 20-Saturday-Al Fresco

August 2-Friday-Opening Reception w/artist (T/B/D), 5:00 p.m.

September 6-Friday-Opening Reception w/artist (T/B/D), 5:00 p.m.

September 13-Friday-Folklife Concert-7-8:30 p.m.

October 4-Friday-Opening Reception w/artist (T/B/D), 5:00 p.m.

October 5-Saturday-Beer n Brats

October 18-Friday-Folklife Concert Series, 7-8:30 p.m.

October 26-Saturday-Trunks n Treats, 3-5 p.m.

November 30-Saturday-Holiday Market

December 8-Sunday-Love n Light tree lighting, 5:00 p.m.

Request from the HSCPA Board-Request that negotiations regarding the MOU & Lease Agreement between the T/O/S & the HSCPA be resumed as soon as possible.

Highway-Travis reported that bids will be going in the paper for hourly tree work, screened winter sand, & gravel & topsoil

Storage Building Proposal-Travis emailed information to all Board members on the winter product storage grant opportunity through DEC, for a new storage shed. \$500,000.00 is the grant max. Money rec'd. from the sale of the loader can be put towards this project & Travis will petition state for \$250,000 of CHIPS money. Would have to do an RFP for a grant writer, approximately \$6,000 to write the grant. Travis has been talking to JGK Associates, LLC, a business consulting firm w/areas of expertise in strategic planning, project mg'mt., grant writing & management, small business planning, general business development, etc. Requires 3 proposals per Procurement Policy--has one; he will try to get two more. We need to have a special meeting to discuss the proposal for storing salt & to discuss brine storage. Proudfit Hall is unavailable on 03/13/2024. If everyone agrees, the meeting can be scheduled for Tuesday, 03/05/2024, @ 5:00 p.m. @ the Town Barn. The time & date was fine. Need to put the frame swap out to bid; **motion made by** Councilman Howard Law, seconded by Councilman Tom McMorris, to put frame swap out to bid; passed 4-0.

Hot Box Upgrade-Would like to upgrade the current hot box through our shared services agreement. Travis would like a motion to list the current hot box either on GovDeals or Auctions International for at least \$25,000.00. **Motion made by** Councilman Howard Law, seconded by Councilman Tom McMorris, to list the current Hot Box for sale either on GovDeals and/or Auctions International; passed 4-0.

In anticipation of passing the new NYS Budget, it looks like Highway Funding could be getting a cut; won't know for sure until the Budget is passed.

Monthly report for 01/01-01/31/2024 will be filed.

Salem Water Dep't.-Eric emailed his report to everyone. Travis reported that the leak had been found. A new meter was paid for, along w/other costs. Figures that the furnace went off about 01/22/2024, froze the system & then the meter. Yearly testing fees have been rec'd. & the rates are going up. Eric reports still 318 meters in service, w/no new water hook-ups for the month. Regular upkeep/maintenance was performed; did a hand-full of dig safe mark-outs. Eye wash & fire extinguisher checks have been completed. The town's web page is updated w/all current information available. Monthly water sample required by DOH was completed, & it met the bacteriological requirements for a public water supply as set forth in Subpart 5-1.5 of the NYS Sanitary Code under Public Health Law 225. There was a meter freeze & break, as Travis reported. Figure an average of about 33 gpm was lost. A day was spent looking for said leak, it was located & turned off. The daily numbers are back down to normal rates. Having trouble w/mail from Queensbury. Be advised: If a fire hydrant is used, PLEASE contact the Water Dep't. so said hydrant can be re-winterized. We appreciate all the

residents who clean around the hydrant(s) near their property when it snows; this makes for easier access in case of an emergency. Report will be filed.

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Planning Board-Clerk Kim Erbe advised that at the 02/22/2024 meeting, the Board will be looking at final approval for HHHN proposal to build their new facility. There is one Site Plan application for a garage. A flood plain determination must be received from Delaware Engineering before Mario can sign the LRCC-1 that goes w/the County Code Enforcement Building application. The LRCC-1 has two boxes to check: one-that the property is in a Flood Zone or two-that the property is not in a flood zone. He must see the flood plain determination before either box can be checked.

Historian/Historic Preservation-Judy sent an email to all, asking for a leave of absence from her duties as Town Historian & Chairperson of the Historic Preservation Committee. She cannot attend public functions or present programs for the foreseeable future. She will keep all informed of her situation & will continue to perform whatever tasks she can manage from home.

Motion to approve Al Cormier as temporary Historian-Motion made by Councilman Howard Law, seconded by Councilman Wyeth Coburn to approve Al Cormier as temporary Historian in Judy Flagg's absence; passed 4-0.

Economic Development-Larry Haber sent minutes to all from their 02/19/2024 meeting; they meet the 3rd Monday of every month @ 9:00 a.m. in the Town Office. Both Yvette Bordeaux (Climate Smart Community) & Wyeth Coburn (Chairman of the Sewer Committee) will try to join this committee going forward. Sam Ives will represent the Climate Smart project when Yvette is teaching at UPenn. Have to be careful there are not 3 Town Board members present at this committee meeting; otherwise, it becomes an official meeting of the Board. Kay can represent the Sewer Committee & Laura Dunham will represent any Georgi projects as both are already members of the Economic Development Committee. Larry had a meeting w/Nooshanna, Co-President of the Salem area Chamber of Commerce, to introduce the EDC & obtain some information on the Chamber & how to proceed. Sue & Larry plan to meet w/Matthew Smith from the NYS Revitalization Dep't. to discuss what grants might be available to Salem based upon goals & projects. This meeting is scheduled for 02/22/2024. Kay will fill in for Sue, as Sue has an emergency meeting @ the County. Sue & Larry plan on attending the Salem Planning Board meeting to introduce Larry as the head of the EDC. There will be a special meeting held re the Georgi Museum to discuss & finalize next steps; date not yet set. New priority item: municipal parking. Suggested sites: expanding the Gazebo area; behind Fort Salem Theater (which would alleviate parking issues on East Broadway during shows); area in front of A & J; upgrading Georgi parking area. Property owners will have to be identified & next steps will need to be discussed. Larry & Kay will meet w/Sarah Ashton of Cambridge on March 8 to discuss Cambridge's successful grant application for the NYS Revitalization monies. Larry will try & contact the Co-op in Cambridge to see if they would be interested in expanding in Salem. Next Meeting will be March 1st, 2024, @ 9 a.m. in the Town Office. Report will be filed.

Bancroft Library-Kim Erbe reported that there was an animal program @ Proudfit Hall on 02/21/2024 w/ approximately 135 in attendance. It was very well attended & a great program! Library Director, Lori Stokem, is retiring; she will certainly be missed!

Sewer Committee-There has been excellent attendance at the last couple of Sewer Committee meetings.

Town Board needs to commit to the \$22,000 for: Town Board Resolution adopting MPR & scheduling the Public Hearing & conducting the same, the SEQR determination, Resolution & Order creating the Sewer District subject to Permissive Referendum & Resolution to Conduct Permissive Referendum Vote & then finally the Vote. Need to also contract w/Matt for attorney services. USDA Grant will be \$30,000 (not yet rec'd.); the

\$10,000 rec'd. from a private donation; LGLCRP money of \$15,000; Salem Central School donation of \$5,000; Salem Area Chamber of Commerce-\$2,500. The Map, Plan & Report cost of \$2,500 was already paid to Delaware Engineering. Councilman Law asked Supervisor Clary about the \$12,000 +/- owed to Delaware; Supervisor Clary responded that balance wasn't owed. \$10,000 in ARPA funds was already agreed upon for Matt Fuller, Attorney, who agreed to the \$10,000 figure for his cost. Funds available from ARPA now-\$40,759.53; sewer is eligible expense for these funds. Lift-off money of \$3,102 **cannot** come out of ARPA funds.

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Resolution #19A-Motion made by Councilman Wyeth Coburn, seconded by Councilman Tom McMorris, to use \$22,000 of ARPA funds to get to all the above mentioned according to Delaware Engineering's 'next steps & off ramps' schedule, which is the Public Education Campaign component of their list. **Roll Call Vote:** Supervisor Evera Sue Clary-Yes; Councilman Wyeth Coburn-Yes; Councilman Tom McMorris-Yes; Councilman Howard Law-No; passed 3-1 (Councilwoman Brenda Levey absent)

DCO Report-

NEW BUSINESS

Special Georgi Meeting/w Town Board-Wait until Brenda can give her input.

Climate Smart Community-'Fix-It'afternoon-Saturday, 04/06/24, @ the Salem Courthouse, 1-4 p.m.

FEMA Maps-There was a meeting on 02/21/2024 @ the County Building B w/DEC from 1-3 p.m. on the new FEMA flood maps. Supervisor Clary reported that the new community rating maps show no flood plain mitigation that was done on White Creek after Irene & a lot of money was spent. 350 new people in the Town of Salem will now be added to flood zone, possibly requiring flood insurance. NFIP, or the Nat'l. Flood Insurance Program, is the Community Rating System used to determine who is in or out. Waiting to hear when public hearings might be for the communities involved.

Hazard Mitigation Emergency Management Plan-It's time to renew as ours was done five years ago. Meeting on 02/22/2024 @ the County Bldg. regarding this.

Grievance Board-Need a motion to appoint Nate Kindel to the Board of Assessment Review, or Grievance Board. **Motion made by** Councilman Tom McMorris, seconded by Councilman Wyeth Coburn, to appoint Nate Kindel to the Board of Assessment Review, passed 4-0

Engineering Ventures-on behalf of Hudson Headwaters will be dealing w/NYS Dep't. of Transportation to lower the speed limit on Route 22. The new speed limit will change to thirty (30) mph @ Albert Sheldon's farm stand & thirty (30) mph at the Church (Bacchur Fellowship), NYS Dep't. of Transportation to put up new signage if agreeing to the speed limit reduction.

OLD BUSINESS

Website Update-Everyone should have their .gov emails working now; some glitches are still happening but all should be using their new .gov email.

Spectrum Services for T/O/S-Councilman McMorris shared the list he prepared of Spectrum internet & phone service accounts summary as of 02/21/2024, w/the cost of monthly internet, monthly VOIP phone charges, monthly Wi-Fi charges, monthly Static IP charges, & monthly charge for FAX lines. He also prepared a summary of Spectrum/Charter services comparison proposal, with current charges & proposed charges under the new plan. **Motion made by** Councilman Howard Law, seconded by Councilman Wyeth Coburn, to allow Spectrum to go ahead w/their survey & changes to current systems; passed 4-0.

Sidewalks-Pete Carrolan reported to the Board that there are many places throughout the former Village where the sidewalks are in really touch shape. He fell recently on a spot where the sidewalk was coming up, bruising his ribs, had a broken hand & a concussion. He reported on the east side of Williams Street, there are 11 places where the sidewalk is coming up; on the west side of the street, 9 places. A sidewalk assessment

needs to be completed & he would be glad to help. Supervisor Clary will also check on available grants to repair/replace sidewalks.

Washington County Code Enforcement Violations-23 Vail Street violation (wall will fall in rather than out on one side). NYSEG removed wires, disconnected power to bldg. Applications for the next \$60 million round of this grant program will open on 02/22/2024. Program is administered by Empire State Development & supports municipalities' efforts to demolish, rehab & restore blighted structures to transform them into vibrant residential, commercial & mixed-use developments. Communities interested in applying should register for ESD's instructional webinar to be held on 02/27/2024. An intent to apply for must be rec'd. by 03/25/2024.

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Park Place condemned house-has a rat infestation problem, w/rats infesting nearby homes.

Anthem Sports Bike ride-will be held on 05/04/2024 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. They will be using Salem roads & want permission to do so. Supervisor Clary will sign the necessary paperwork & get it back. They will need to provide a Certificate of Insurance to the Town of Salem, which they said they will do.

Resignation re IT support-Joe Wever submitted a letter of resignation to the Town as he no longer wishes to provide IT support. Accepted

Motion to Adjourn-**Motion made by** Councilman Howard Law, seconded by Councilman Wyeth Coburn, to adjourn the regular monthly meeting of the Salem Town Board; passed 4-0; meeting adjourned @ 8:30 p.m.

Special Meeting for Highway-will be held on Tuesday, 03/05/2024 @ 5:00 p.m. @ the Town Barn on Rexleigh Rd.

Next Regular Monthly Meeting will be held on Wednesday, 03/20/2024, in Proudfit Hall; 181 Main St.; Salem, NY, beginning @ 5:00 pm for review of Warrants #3 & Highway Abstract #3 of 2024 for payment. The regular business meeting will be called to order @ 6:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia A. Gilchrist-Town Clerk-Town of Salem

