

TOWN OF SALEM
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING-TOWN BOARD
MAY 15, 2024

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

Others Present: Travis Keys-Highway/Water; Krista Sullivan-Courthouse; Rebecca Brown-Water/Library; Larry Haber-Economic Development; Sandra Haber-Georgi

Public Present: Winona Hathaway; Mike Bukowski; Corrina Aldrich-District Mgr. Wash. Co. SWCD

Absent-Eric Rogers-Water Dep't.; Judy Flagg-Historian/Records Mg'mt. (Ex.); Kim Erbe-Planning & Library; Al Cormier-Deputy Hist./Records Mg'mt.; Jeanne Smith-Georgi; Steve Saunders-Salem Fire Dep't. (report provided); Jim Carrolan-Sewer Comm.; Nancy Quell-DCO (report provided)

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

Review of Georgi & Highway Financials-\$2,500 used in ARPA funds for Georgi. Page 1 shows cash in checking, ICS interest & petty cash, as well as estimated revenues, expenditures & appropriated fund balance. Page 2 is liabilities, fund balance, appropriations & revenues. This equals amount shown on Page 1. Page 3 is the detail (breakdown) of revenues. Keep in mind that rentals don't clear until after event happens. Page 4 is detail of expenditure--Line 1 is Jeanne Smith; Line 2 is gardener Sandy Adams. Contractual expensed are listed & the rest is employee benefits, like FICA & Retirement. GM7450.4 would be where \$1,250 & \$560 for lawyer is coming from; \$1,000 will come from ARPA funds for special meeting regarding the Trust & 501(c)(3). Sheet attached showing the Deferred Revenues of \$5,586.08; Carlson is \$16,900.

Highway-\$32,000 in checking acc't.; ICS Interest \$9,500 more through April, '24. \$88,000 in deferred revenue from payloader & pick-up; \$31,000 for pick-up will go into machinery eventually. Revenue is over \$30. Hot Box is shared svcs. Haven't done much yet in summer budget--just starting now & O/T goes until end of 2024.

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

Approval of Minutes from 04/17/2024 Regular Monthly Meeting-Motion made by Councilman Howard Law, seconded by Councilman Tom McMorris, to approve the minutes from the regular monthly meeting of the Salem Town Board; passed unanimously 5-0.

Approval of Minutes from 05/02/2024-Georgi Special Meeting (Taken by Kathy Chambers)-

Motion made by Councilman Howard Law, seconded by Councilman Tom McMorris, to approve the minutes from the 05/02/2024 Georgi Special Meeting w/corrections as noted: 1-Change 501(3)(c) to 501(c)(3) where mentioned in the minutes. 2-At bottom of page 1, last sentence, change to: "Town will maintain control of the trust. Trust needs to go to whomever is operating the Georgi." (Took out 'not') 3-Page 2, Paragraph 3-"The principal should not be touched." (Changed would to should.) 4-Page 2, Paragraph 12-"A Quit-Claim Deed will need to be filed because of the conditions of past lawsuit. Will investigate." (Changed after: 'filed, most likely, after the litigation'.) 5-Page 2-Paragraph 15-"The committee says they will have to give it back to the town, since they presently own it." **Remove whole sentence.** Passed unanimously 5-0 w/corrections.

Approval of Warrants #5 & Highway Abstract #5 for payment-Motion made by Councilman Howard Law, seconded by Councilman Wyeth Coburn, to approve Warrants #5 & Highway Abstract #5 for payment; passed unanimously 5-0.

ARPA Funds-Resolution #30-Motion made by Councilman Howard Law, seconded by Councilman Wyeth Coburn, to use \$8,000 of remaining ARPA funds for the Georgi; passed unanimously 5-0.

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PUBLIC COMMENT

Sales Tax Increase-Discussion being held at the County level to increase the Washington County sales tax from 7% to 8%; Warren, Washington & Saratoga Counties are the only counties still @ 7%.

Guest Speaker Corinna Aldrich-Wash. Co. Soil & Water-Habitat Garden on Stanton Rd. (by Water Barn) will have some work done by the school students on Community Service Day. Soil & Water has purchased the necessary items needed for the work. Invasive species will be removed. There will be three groups of 5 students each making the foot bridge wider for more accessibility. Mulch is needed up above the Habitat Garden, called the People's Garden. Will put in more plants & possibly some bluebird houses. Corinna reported that they have about 25 concolor fir trees that could be planted & used for Xmas trees; these could possibly be taken care of by the Ag students @ Salem School. (We all know how Travis loves trees!)

Georgi-Will continue to do work on riverbank, weather permitting. Will be doing survey & design work; at they have their own people who can do this now. Big boulders/stones & logs could be used on bank, stock-piling during winter when ground is frozen.

Bids on ADA Accessible Path-Only one bid was received from Moy Enterprises, Inc.; Randy Moy, President; 143 Becker Rd.; Greenwich, NY 12834, for a total cost of \$29,913.00. A non-collusive bidding certificate & Certificate of Insurance was provided as instructed in the bid specs. **Motion made by** Councilwoman Brenda Levey, seconded by Councilman Tom McMorris, to table the bids for now. Board thought this was a little high but more than one bid is needed.

Town Clerk Monthly Fees-Clerk Gilchrist reported to the Board that \$467.90 had been collected in fees for the month of April, 2024. Copy of the report was given to all Board members.

Salem Volunteer Fire Dep't.-8 calls for the month of April, 2024: 4-Salem (1-wires down on Skellie Rd.-Town of Jackson; 1-brush fire; 1-alarm activation; 1-hazardous situation w/gasoline in a classroom @ Salem Central School; 9 people evaluated by Salem EMS)

Mutual Aid Calls-4 total: 2-Hebron (MVA; barn fire); 2-Arlington (both brush fires)

Training: Driver/pump training; fire police school-3 graduated; 1-taking IFO

Meetings-Fire Dep't. monthly meeting

Report will be filed

Approve new member-Chief Saunders has requested that the Town Board approve Rebecca Slater & Ashley Yole as new members of the Salem Volunteer Fire Department's Support Group. **Motion made by** Councilman Howard Law, seconded by Councilwoman Brenda Levey, approving both Rebecca Slater & Ashley Yole as new members of the Salem Volunteer Fire Department's Support Group; passed unanimously 5-0.

Shushan Volunteer Fire Dep't.-No Report for month of April,

Salem Rescue Squad-Vicki Campbell, Captain, provided April report for the Squad. Calls-42; 4451-5; 4452-37; 4453-3

Call Origin: Salem-27; Hebron-12; VT-1; Jackson-2

Disposition: GFH-16; Saratoga-9; SVMC-2; Stand-by-1; RRM-1; RMA-23; NO PT-1; Lift Assist-3; Fire Standby-2

Total year-to-date calls-165; report will be filed.

Courthouse-Herb emailed minutes to everyone from the 05/08/2024 Board of Director's meeting.

The on-line auction raised \$11,500. Planning for another during Alfresco Dinner in July.

Supervisor Clary reported on Town activities; Larry Haber reported on Economic Development Committee.

Washington County Historical Society-will be offering educational tours of local businesses/homes, beginning on Friday, 05/10. New Collar Goods (shirt shop); Salem Episcopal Church; Courthouse. Each visit will be

approximately 45 minutes. Karen Sheldon gave her report on the Facilities Committee; Chris Michael provided an update on the Strategic Plan; Beth Ullion reported that \$2,550 was brought in until the end of April.

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Marissa Perkins & Michael Ammaturo reported that training for BOD will be completed by July on Gmail, Google Calendars, Google Docs, etc. This is also open to T/O/S Board members. Marissa & Michael are also working on website & programs w/Krista Sullivan.

Krista Sullivan reported Yoga would begin soon.

Foresight is the company that installed the new panel to be totally connected; panel should be up & working by the end of next week. Google class will be given @ Courthouse-no date set yet.

Next Board of Directors Meeting-Wednesday, 06/12/24 @ 7 p.m.

Report will be filed.

Upcoming events at the Courthouse:

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

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.

Highway Dep't.-Travis reported that tubes were in & shoulders have been cut; grading dirt. '04 truck has not been listed yet but will be. Bid for hotbox was \$10,400, countered w/ \$25,000; this was rejected. Whitehall may take it this winter. Hudson Headwaters hauled stone to barn; County did landscaping & survey of the area. Neet to get screening down on ground around sand pile; County will help. Did some hot patching & sweeping. Paving has been pushed off due to the weather—may be able to do in June. Had safety class; move grizzly away from Town barn (big, tall screen).

Salt bids-put in for 600 tons; Rupert took some of overage from 2023.

LGLCRPB will submit grant for salt barn when it comes time to do it.

Water Dep't.-Still 318 meters in service, w/no new water hook-ups for the month. Looking into Master Meter as a possible replacement to Orion that is currently being used. To try & fix the 'no or miss reads', Eric is looking into cell units. Regular upkeep & maintenance performed; had a few dig safe mark outs. Eye wash & fire extinguisher checks have been done. Finished cleaning & operating water valves in the system. Done yearly as preventative work on the system. Still investigating purchasing a leak detector so we will not have to hire out to check for leaks. I'm looking at one for about \$4,000. Well #3 is due for cleaning this year; tank will be due for inspection in 2025.

Monthly water sample required by the D/O/H 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 will be a hand-full of yearly water samples due in the next couple of months. Erice would like to get drone from Wash. Co. here to do an outside inspection of the tank.

Second quarter iron + manganese tests are due in June.

Travis reported they would be doing hydrant risers--corner of Rte. 64 & by Jim Carrolan's. Ferguson was checking things out today, May 15th, like lines in ditch going up the hill. Badger Meters are not reading well; Travis

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has asked them to come to the site. Cost of sending old one out for repair would be somewhere between \$500-\$600. Went to water school; new regulations coming out regarding testing; Travis hopes for 1st & 3rd quarters.

Generators have been serviced @ Courthouse, etc. NYSE&G Stanton Hill project of moving pole will happen hopefully next week.

Report will be filed.

Planning Board-The Planning Board meeting will be held on 05/23; Two Site Plan applications: One for an addition to existing home & construction of new barn/garage @ 356 River Way.; Tax Map #216.1-1-14 & another for construction of a 24' x 24', 28' gamble attic, 2-car garage on property located on Priest Rd.; Tax Map #192.-1-46.

Georgi-Plant sale is Saturday, 05/18/24; community workday w/Salem Central students is Wed., 05/22, w/a rain date of Thursday, 05/23/24. Finalizing 'Country Night @ the Georgi' for June 27 w/Al & Kathy Bank & Shannon Roy; CR rental on 06/22 & 07/13; Mettawee Players coming 07/13 (rain date of 14th); Washington County Band-08/01 (rain date of 08/02); wedding on 08/03 (Park & CR); Fall Into Shushan-10/05 from Noon-4 p.m.; Election on 11/05-CR

Thank-you to John Phillips from Pinnacle Roofing for taking pictures of the Museum roof, which were emailed to Tom McMorris & sent to all. John having computer issues, so estimate will be forthcoming. Probably about \$8,350 for roof over Battenkill Room only; could put thermos-controlled fan in roof.

Brenda will be ordering a couple of playground pieces.

Reports will be filed.

Historian's Report-Provided by Al Cormier. Norman Rockwell exhibit of local models is now @ the Cambridge Library. Tom McMorris has enlisted the help of Historian, Ken Gottry, to present the display. The next 'Story Court' oral history event will be held 06/06 @ 6:30 pm in the archive room @ the Courthouse, w/our own Al Cormier talking about his own memories of growing up during the war in Leominster, MA. WWII artifacts will also be shown. 34 people attended the historic tour sponsored by the HSCPA on Friday, 05/10. Both Al & Herb participated as speakers for this event. This was part of the three-building tour w/architectural historian, Susan Lynch, of Greenwich. As reported under the Courthouse, two other buildings were included in the tour.

Butch Gilchrest delivered a large scrapbook collection compiled by Bob Cana, former Salem coach/teacher, from 1938-1960; Bob's daughter donated them. Mental health film, 'Out of the Darkness', that used the Courthouse/Courtroom venues for filming, will be shown on Thursday, 06/13, @ 7 pm in the courtroom. This is part 1 of 2 dealing w/mental health issues. Todd & Laurie Teal, who live in Shushan, are the producers. The film is free. Salem Area Woman's Club is culling some of their records & will store historical material for safe-keeping in the town's archives. On May 23, 2024, the Wash. Co. Historical Society is presenting a lecture by Paul McCarty, Fort Edward historian, about Jane McCrea. Jane's brother, John McCrea, was the County Clerk of what was then Charlotte County (now Wash. Co.) in 1785. He lived in Salem for many years before moving to St. Lawrence County. Free lecture will be held in the East Hebron Presbyterian Church on NYS Rte. 22 @ 6:30 pm.

Willie Linendoll will check on flagpole & getting flag down or he may have to take down & replace.

Thank-you to Mark Cooney for the donation of a small three-shelf bookshelf; this is now in the archive room. Report will be filed.

Records Management-NYS Records Retention & Disposition Schedule was revised in 2021.

Bancroft Library-New Library Director, Melissa Carll, has now taken over for Lori Stokem; Lori will stay on as a fill-in when needed. Ed Donoghue emailed the Library's 2023 report to our community w/facts & figures of all the Library has done. 15,744 visitors came to the Library in 2023; over 1,000 people took food from the fridge in the vestibule through the Farm-2-Library program; 314 programs were offered w/4,314 people in attendance; there are 1,328 card holders, w/14,917 items borrowed; Wi-Fi was accessed 4,521 times w/3,071 downloads for e-books. There are currently 41,964 items in the collection! Well done, Bancroft Library! Keep up the great work!

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Library Grant-\$5,000 grant applied for from Library System to investigate the possibility of expanding the library into the bays at the old firehouse. Possibility of Salem students cleaning out bays @ the in-service day next week.

Sewer Committee-Wyeth has looked at the new site—talking w/owner as more site work may need to be done. More to report on this in the next month or two. No vote will be taken in August--not ready. Income survey figures have been extended so what was reported can still be used.

Economic Development Committee-Larry Haber has already emailed the minutes of the April 15, 2024 meeting to all. Reported w/April minutes. Next meeting won't be until May 20, 2024, @ 9 am in Town Office. He did report that he met w/the chestnut farmer on Co. Rte. 153. Sarah & Kurt Winslow are interested in the possibility of a co-op store in Salem.

DCO Report-Three tickets issued to person on Coon Lane--dogs constantly running-\$70.40 turned into Town for fees on dogs (this continues to be an issue); barking dogs @ 308 No. Main St. (tagged door w/notice); call to 179 Main Street re barking dogs, which all need licensing-get into the Town Office to license dogs or tickets will be issued. Checking out report on Archibald St. that a 19-year-old dog is missing; two dogs took off on Beattie Hollow Road-a Saint Bernard & Shephard; will post that they are missing. Report will be filed.

NEW BUSINESS

Community Service Day-as reported, will be held on Wednesday, 05/22, w/a rain date of Thurs., 05/23. Projects will be done @ Georgi, Courthouse, Gazebo & Town Office. **Motion made by** Councilwoman Brenda Levey, seconded by Councilman Tom McMorris to buy mulch for the Gazebo Park in the former Village; passed unanimously 5-0. Students will also be checking the condition of the chairs to see if any need painting & will place them around the former Village where they go.

Grievance Day-will be held in the Salem Town Office on Wednesday, May 29th, from 4-8 pm.

Street Closures-Tree Removal-Rec'd. email from Attorney Klingebiel re tree cutting, road closures, etc. It states: "Many municipalities have local laws which require a certain number of days of advance notice & that the notice be posted in the area that will be impacted by the work. Other municipalities simply post the advance notice as a courtesy, like hydrant flushing, paving activities, curb work, mowing, etc. Regardless of which path is chosen, the work should be scheduled & performed at such times were it has the least amount of impact on schools, businesses, emergency services, church & other regular community activities." Trees were cut down on William Street w/o prior notice to homeowners, who were very upset. Road closed so parents could not drop children off @ daycare; they were not happy as there was no way to get the children to the house.

ARPA FUNDING; TREE REPLACEMENT FUND-\$8,000 in remaining ARPA funding voted for Georgi--about \$7,000 left. Balance could be used for tree replacement fund, flood mitigation, Climate Smart Community projects. Have a total of 1900 points so far in Smart Community projects that have been done--LED light replacement was 900 points; other projects have earned 500-700 points. Supervisor Clary has talked w/Josh Dranoff w/the Clean Energy Community Program about a grant. Town could set aside \$3,000 of ARPA money remaining for tree replacement. Storm drains need replacing on Academy St., w/larger ones to go in. Water sits in drain currently & mosquitos are terrible. Could address this issue, also. Drain needed in front of Beverly Schwabe's house on West Broadway; water pools in front of her house. Travis reported that he could not do it as this is a County Road. Archibald Street needs attention by Rebecca Brown's & there is an issue @ John Lundgren's. **Motion made by** Councilman Tom McMorris, seconded by Councilman Wyeth Coburn, for Supervisor Clary to set up a meeting w/Josh Dranoff sometime next week.

Salem Festival Chorus exchange trip to Germany-Letter sent in February from Iris Rogers & Zach Eastman requesting assistance w/their trip to Germany for a music exchange program, scheduled for July, 2024. Thirty-four students will be participating. The Salem Festival Chorus is in the process of becoming a 501(c)(3)

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not-for-profit organization that will provide unique opportunities for local youth. Money raised will go directly for student airfare & travel expenses. **Motion made by** Councilwoman Brenda Levey, seconded by Councilman Tom McMorris to take \$500 from the Youth Line item in the 2024 budget to give to the Salem Festival Chorus for the July, 2024 music exchange program in Germany; passed unanimously 5-0.

Salem Community Foundation Potluck Dinner-will be held on the Courthouse lawn on Saturday, 06/01,

From 5-7 p.m. Hopefully, this will become an annual event.

Contractor Insurance Liability Ceiling/Waiver-Need to get this straightened out so it's not so confusing depending on event being held & work being done by Contractors anywhere in the Town. Currently \$2,000,000 each occurrence as recommended by Attorney Klingebiel. Councilman Coburn had expressed his opinion that \$1,000,000-\$2,000,000 aggregate should be enough. Set up special meeting w/Melissa Davidson, insurance broker, who will review our current policy, rep from NYMIR, & Attorney Klingebiel to get this straightened out once & for all. Councilman Law will contact these three to set up a meeting & let everyone know how he makes out.

OLD BUSINESS

SLIC for Town Office w/Fiber Optic Line-Councilman McMorris reported that two regular phone would be purchased, as well as one cordless. Cost would be \$274/month, with installation cost of \$400. Cost for Judge Thetford would be \$135.00; Georgi & Judge's chambers will remain w/Spectrum. Waiting for SLIC to set up time to see what needs to be done in Town Office building.

Saratoga Networks, LLC Proposal-from Mark Rode, update from prior proposal requested by Kathy Chambers, Clerk to Supervisor, to see what still needs to be completed. Proposal dated May 13, 2024, w/ breakdown of everything that needs to be done, has a total estimate for labor & work of \$50,180. Total estimate quoted on October 3, 2022 was \$43,284. Councilman Coburn & Councilman McMorris felt that the \$50,180 current estimate was very high. Need to compare the two estimates item by item.

Flood Mitigation/FEMA Assistance/Appeal thru Town-Assistance needed to remove homeowners from new proposed FEMA maps that shouldn't be there (& some aren't included that should be). Can use the computers @ Bancroft Library to do required work if use is scheduled for a specific time & day so it does not

interfere w/students who need them. Tracey Ledger, the Town's Flood Plain Manager, from Delaware Engineering, would probably come for 3-4 hours depending on the time needed to assist homeowners w/this project. Supervisor Clary will contact Tracey to get her estimate and/or a recommendation, if any, for the Town to work toward removal of certain people from the new proposed FEMA maps.

Board of Elections-will be coming to the June Town Board meeting to review election law & results of an audit that was conducted for voting.

Georgi on the Battenkill Maintenance Priority List-Committee needs sooner rather than later!!

CORRESPONDENCE-None

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mike Buckowski-is very glad changes are being discussed to the new FEMA flood maps. FEMA also needs to be asked about the ACOM report & housed above the base flood elevation. FEMA info could be inaccurate. What about the Archibald Street Bridge removal??

Motion to Adjourn-made by Councilman Howard Law, seconded by Councilman Tom McMorris, to adjourn the monthly meeting of the Salem Town Board; passed unanimously 5-0. Meeting was adjourned @ 9:08 p.m.

Special Meeting of Salem Town Board-There will be a special meeting of the Salem Town Board w/ Attorney David Klingebiel, Melissa Davidson, insurance broker, & a representative from MYMIR, our insur-

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ance company @ Proudfit Hall; 181 Main Street; on Thursday, 06/13, 2024 @ 5 pm to discuss insurance liability limits for the T/O/S.

Next Regular Monthly Meeting of Salem Town Board-will be held on Wednesday, June 19th 2024, @ Proudfit Hall; 181 Main Street; Salem, NY. Review of Warrants #6 & Highway Abstract #6 for payment will begin @ 5 p.m., with business meeting being called to order @ 6 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Patricia A. Gilchrist-Town Clerk
Town of Salem

