

TOWN OF SALEM
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING-TOWN BOARD
JULY 17, 2024

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

Others Present: Travis Keys-Highway/Water; Kim Erbe-Planning Bd./Library; Rebecca Brown-Water/Library; Larry Haber-Economic Development; Sandra Haber-Georgi; Jeanne Smith-Georgi; Mary Menard-Georgi

Public Present: Cynthia Weinrich

Absent:-Councilman Wyeth Coburn (Excused); Eric Rogers-Water Dep't.; Judy Flagg-Historian/Records Mg'mt. (Ex.); Al Cormier-Deputy Hist./Records Mg'mt.; Herb Perkins-Courthouse; Steve Saunders-Salem Fire Dep't. (report provided); Jim Carrolan-Sewer Comm.; Nancy Quell-DCO (report provided)

5:00 P.M.-Review of **Warrants #7 & Highway Abstract #7 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 from 06/13/2024 Special Ins. Meeting & 06/19/2024 Regular Board Meeting

Meeting-Hold on approval of these minutes as some of the Board members had not had a chance to review

Approval of Warrants #7 & Highway Abstract #7 for payment-Motion made by Councilman Tom McMorris, seconded by Councilman Howard Law, to approve Warrants #7 & Highway Abstract #7 for payment; passed 4-0.

Town Clerk Monthly Fees-Clerk Gilchrist reported to the Board that \$452.00 had been collected in fees for the month of June, 2024.

Salem Volunteer Fire Dep't.-22 calls for the month of June, 2024: 15-Salem (1-Control Burn; 1-MVA; 2-EMS Lift Assist; 1-Motorcycle Fire; 10-Trees & Power Lines); 2-Jackson (1-Broken LP Gas Line; 1-Tractor Fire)

Mutual Aid Calls: 1-Hebron (MVA); 3-Cambridge (1-Standby; 1-Structure Scene; 1-MVA); 1-Greenwich (Stand-by)

Training: CRP/AED; First Aid; Station Maintenance; Hydrant Use; Driver Training; Pumping; PPE Donning

Events: Girls Salem Central Softball Parade; Father's Day Breakfast

Meetings-Fire Dep't. monthly meeting

Request from the Salem Fire Dep't. on May Report: 1.-To approve Wyatt Rogers & Blaise Barrett to join the active Fire Dep't. roster; **Motion made by** Councilman Howard Law, seconded by Councilman Tom McMorris, to approve Wyatt Rogers & Blaise Barrett to the active Fire Dep't. roster; passed 4-0

2.-To approve Kailyn Danko as a new member of the support group; **Motion made by** Councilman Howard Law, seconded by Councilwoman Brenda Levey, approving Kailyn Danko as a new member of the support group; passed 4-0. (These two requests should have been voted on @ the May 15, 2024, Town Board Meeting but were not.)

Report will be filed

Shushan Volunteer Fire Dep't.-No Report for month of June, 2024.

Salem Rescue Squad-47 Calls; YTD-261; 4451-6; 4452-37; 4453-7; Home Visits-0; YTD-0

Salem Town-29; Hebron-17; Vermont-1

GFH-16; Saratoga-9; SVMC-3; Stand-by-1; RMA-9; Lift Assist-6; Cancelled-4; Class 17-1

Report will be filed

Highway Dep't.-Travis reported that there was a tree down on Gillis Hill, which he rec'd. prior notice of the issue. Have been steadily working on trees & have rec'd. many requests to remove them. I did not budget for this am't. of tree work & have been doing it as time allows. Going to try to trim all the trees on Main St. & the county roads that are affecting sidewalks, hitting cars or trucks that park, or line-of sight out of driveways. Have been doing work in & around the barn. Have had electrical issues fixed & brought up to code. The office, break room & bathroom floors are done; we are working on painting the same. He reported that Delurey's (now Allegiance) only has 20 truck allotments for 2026 & 14 have already gone. Will have to act on this quick if board is looking to purchase a new truck for 2026 delivery. Zwack is still waiting on the box stuck in Canada. Truck '13 has gone down twice in the last month--engine trouble & then brake problems. Paving & shoulders are done for now; big thanks to all the towns that came to help. Would like to pave Park Place Ext. & by the end of Stewart's. Still have several large culverts to put in before fall & some sidewalks to do before school opens. Started preparing the site for the future sand & salt barns. We will be getting the shot rock from Hudson Headwaters site to get the site to grade. Sent proposed bids to Clerk Gilchrist on the equipment trailer & new frame for 2002 Internat'l. tandem dump truck; she will put in Post Star. LGLCRPB will do the \$116,000 grant for the brine maker; Town will pay around \$26,000. Possibility of doing an intermunicipal agreement w/ Argyle & White Creek.

The short report for the meeting, as well as Travis' day by day work for the month of June, 2024, will be filed.

Water Dep't.-Eric e-mail out his report. 318 meters in service; still looking into Master Meter as a passable replacement to the Orion system we are currently using. I did my year-end reading. No new water hook-ups for the month; regular upkeep & maintenance were performed. Had a hand full of dig safe mark outs. Eye wash & fire extinguisher checks have been done; did our monthly water sample required by the D/O/H, which 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. 2nd quarter iron & manganese sample came back; all tests are within the NYD DOH guidelines. Well #3 is due for cleaning this year & the tank will be due for inspection in 2025. Eric would like to get the county drone here to do outside inspection of the tank. HHHN did two main line taps. One was for their service & the other was for fire protection. This was a wet tap under pressure so the system could remain on-line w/no interruptions. Their water is not turned on yet; they did a pressure test on both lines & both passed. Travis reported that lead sampling went out today (07/17); big tests were done last week. Mark Rode has been working on the system, which is supposed to be good for 6-10 yrs. w/an upgrade in between. Tech support will be gone. There is a possibility that the pins on chassis failed; Mark is working on contacting right people regarding this issue. Eric's report will be filed.

Water billings have been sent out by Rebecca. She has been working w/Supervisor Clary, explaining the system for billing. Town Board should audit Water Dep't. anytime between middle of Nov. & end of the year. Payments to be postmarked by Friday, 07/19, to pay w/o penalty.

Fire Bays-Rebecca was advised by Councilman Howard Law that the Salem Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. voted to relinquish and assumed and/or valid claim(s) to the two (2) apparatus bays @ 181 Main Street; Salem, NY 12865. An e-mail was sent by Joe Wever

Courthouse-Supervisor Clary reported that Lunch, Learn n Play is doing very well. Al Fresco will be held on the grounds of the Courthouse on Saturday, 07/20.

LL & P-will end their 19th season on Friday, August 09, 2024.

Upcoming events at the Courthouse:

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

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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.

Historian-Al Cormier reported that branches in the Rev. War Cemetery need to be removed. Entry signs coming into Salem from all points need to be re-painted. **Motion made by** Councilman Howard Law, seconded by Councilman Tom McMorris, to buy the paint needed for the 'Welcome to Salem Signs' coming into Town; passed 4-0. Volunteer John Hubbard will do the work & Councilwoman Brenda Levey will help him, if needed.

DCO-Nancy Quell turned in reports for May & June, 2024. Had questions about a neighbor's dog & a reported golden retriever was reported on the loose on Rte. 29 but was found. June-Missing Pomeranian on Railroad Ave. in Shushan; neighbor's dog on the loose on West Broadway (their door was tagged); owner called re his dog & fixed the fence where dog got out. Reports will be filed.

Planning Board-Kim reported that this month's meeting will be held on July 25th. August meeting will be on August 15th due to the Washington County Fair being held, beginning the week of 08/19. On the agenda for July are a Site Plan Application to construct a 12 x 17 first floor addition for a bedroom & a 10 x 13 addition for an entrance /storage room to existing home, located @ 693 Blind Buck Rd.; Site Plan Application for the installation of 18 rooftop solar panels (7.380 kw) on existing home, located @ 4 Mountain View Way.

Georgi-Sandy Haber announced that the Hyde Museum wants 10-12 painting from the Georgi to exhibit @ the Hyde from 01/25-05/11/2025. The Hyde will handle all logistics of packing, transport, etc. Need to check on insurance requirements necessary for them to exhibit. This exhibit will give the Georgi great exposure & hopefully bring in donors & sponsors. **Resolution #32-Motion made by** Councilwoman Brenda Levey, seconded by Councilman Howard Law, giving permission to the Hyde Museum to exhibit the specific paintings they want to exhibit from 01/25-05/11/2025, having the proper insurance certificate in place before they remove any paintings from the Museum; passed 4-0.

Invasive Species-Soil & Water wants to work on removal of several invasive species at the Georgi. **Motion made by** Councilman Howard Law, seconded by Councilman Tom McMorris, to allow Soil & Water to work on removal of invasive species such as poison ivy, cow parsnip, & poison parsnip; passed 4-0. Corinna Aldrich & Ashley Leemans of Soil & Water consider this a long-term project of 5+/- years. Brenda also reported that perhaps bush hogging the path to the river in the fall & widening the same would help bank erosion--possibly a wooden path? There are two other areas where roots are exposed. Corinna is also working w/Trout Unlimited on the design of the bank. Corinna explained that in-kind service funds may be available for tree replacement, etc. This is still in the talking stage.

'Country Night at the Georgi' was very well attended; Sandy Haber put out a donation jar & raised \$90.

Mettawee Players performed on the grounds on 07/12/2024 & was well attended.

Washington County Band-will perform on the grounds on 08/01/2024, w/Rotary serving ice cream sundaes.

Hubbard Hall & 'Shakespeare' at the Georgi-will be performing on 08/15/2024; they will sell snacks & drinks.

Sandy Haber reported that Erike Cuevas has taken over as gardener; wood signs will be going up under the Main Georgi sign, stating: NO FIRES; NO GRILLING; NO SMOKING. Donation signs going up on grounds buildings. Brenda would like to be added to the Grounds cameras. Washington County Youth Bureau have finished their work @ the Georgi; they sanded & painted all the benches & picnic tables.

Comm. Room Rental 10/26/2024-Sandra Haber reported that someone would like to rent the C.R. on 10/26/24 for a kids birthday party. What do we do about the amount of insurance required?? **Motion made by** Councilman Tom McMorris, seconded by Brenda Levey, to have the party (parent(s)) sign the Waiver form

provided by NYMIR for the event. **Roll Call Vote:** Councilman Tom McMorris-Yes; Councilwoman Brenda Levey-Yes; Supervisor Evera Sue Clary-Yes; Councilman Howard Law-Abstain; passed 3-1

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Washington County Band Performance @ the Georgi

Motion made by Councilman Tom McMorris, seconded by Supervisor Evera Sue Clary, to grandfather the Washington County Bank Performance for 2024 as they have no insurance. **Roll Call Vote:** Councilman Tom McMorris-Yes; Supervisor Evera Sue Clary-Yes; Councilwoman Brenda Levey-Yes; Councilman Howard Law-Abstain; passed 3-1.

Economic Development-Larry Haber reported that talks w/Cambridge Co-Op have resumed. Larry has reached out to the Winslow's to see if they remain interested in creating a Salem Food Store. No date for discussion has been set; Melissa Curtis has also identified a desire to do the same; discussions will proceed. YMCA was contacted but haven't heard anything back from them. Supervisor Clary, Larry, Bob Henke (Board of Supervisor's Chair); County Treasurer Al Nolette & the County Attorney hope to meet soon regarding the Linke Properties. Trying to find out what the amount of the liens are & who filed the same--one on the mill in Salem & one on Shushan Bentwood mill in Shushan. Supervisor Clary & others interested met w/Darren Johnson of the Greenwich Journal, which will result in recreating the Salem Press on a bi-monthly basis. Hopefully, this may be accomplished before School resumes. Supervisor Clary reported that Cambridge rec'd. approximately \$2.4 million from NY Forward for add'l. development. There are several locations Supervisor Clary feels could be renovated/revitalized in Salem: Food Pantry, Bancroft Library, Fort Salem Theatre, & HSCPA. Need people involved in this project to develop grant request documentation. Co-Operative Extension is looking to relocate their Hudson Falls office; Supervisor Clary hopes to find locations in Salem to propose to them. Continues to try to talk to Town Board members on their views of what & how to maintain & grow Salem/Shushan. Still need to meet or talk to Councilman Law & Councilwoman Levey. Met w/Mike Snow, who owns the building across from Yushak's in Shushan about uses for his building. Have suggested he develop a business plan and/or obtaining possible grant money from Salem Community Fund. **Sewer**-Kay Tomasi reported that a discussion needs to happen to develop a marketing/communication strategy for the Sewer project. John & Larry volunteered for this. Next Meeting: 07/15/2024 @ 9 a.m. in the Salem Town Office; Larry's report will be filed.

OLD BUSINESS

Comprehensive Master Plan Grant Award-LGLCRP has worked on the grant; approval has been rec'd. from the NYS Comptroller's Office; \$72,000 will be awarded to assist in this project. Should kick off sometime in August, 2024.

LOMA Flood Hazard-T/O/S; Delaware Engineering-The Town of Salem will hold a meeting @ Proudfit Hall; 181 Main Street; Salem, on Thurs., 08/15/2024, from 4-7 p.m. This will afford those attending within the new proposed FEMA identified Flood Hazard Zone a change to review w/Tracey Ledder of Delaware Engineering what this means to the homeowners & it may afford the homeowners a chance to file to be removed from the floodplain.

Climate Smart Community-Need to add John Bardwell as a Community member to our Climate Smart Community list. **Motion made by** Councilman Tom McMorris, seconded by Councilwoman Brenda Levey, to add John Bardwell as a Community member to the Climate Smart Community list; passed 4-0. The T/O/S needs a Resolution to implement a Climate Smart Community Task Force & appoint a Climate Smart Community Coordinator(s). The T/O/S adopted the NYS Climate Smart Communities Pledge by Resolution #72 on September 20, 2023. **Resolution #33-Motion made by** Councilwoman Brenda Levey, seconded by Councilman Howard Law, to appoint Yvette Bordeaux & Evera Sue Clary as the Climate Smart Coordinators; passed 4-0.

Spectrum/SLIC Contracts-No long-distance charge through SLIC/Westelcom; internet/phone through Westelcom is \$134.90 (\$99 install fee as long as done w/Town Office). **Motion made by** Councilman Howard Law

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Seconded by Councilwoman Brenda Levey, to proceed w/SLIC/Westelcom for the set-up in the Town Office; passed 4-0.

\$50/month savings for Bancroft Library. Internet/phone through Spectrum is \$169.99 w/no long-distance charges & a \$99 install fee; did not get quote from SLIC/Westelcom due to the SALS set-up w/internet. Was paying \$229.93 prior w/long distance.

Town Court-Currently internet through Spectrum; phone through Ring Squared--total cost is currently \$212.94, w/a charge for long distance. Will now be \$169.99 for internet/phone through SLIC/Westelcom w/no long-distance charge; \$99 install fee.

Georgi Museum-Internet & analog phone through Spectrum w/slow internet speed 10MBPS x 1 MBPS is now \$176.24. Internet/VOIP phone through Spectrum w/fast internet speed 300MBPS x 15 MBPS will be \$186. This comes w/voice mail & e-mail notifications. **Motion made by** Councilwoman Brenda Levey, seconded by Councilman Howard Law, to switch of the faster internet speed w/voice mail & e-mail notifications at @ cost of \$186; passed 4-0.

Route 29 Junkyard-Rec's. e-mail from Al Cormier regarding this mess. It certainly takes away from Salem but also hurts the property values of those people living next to it. **Motion made by** Councilman Howard Law, seconded by Councilwoman Brenda Levey, to turn this over to the Town Attorney, Dave Klingebiel, asking him to write a letter to Washington County Code Enforcement to see what their intent is, as this has been going on way to long. Passed 4-0.

NEW BUSINESS

Old Village Park-needs weeds cleaned out of the median area; they are very high. Possible tree removal, too. Councilman Levey asked Travis if he would have Eric check the garbage can in the park.

Pro Housing Resolution Discussion-Laura Oswald from Wash. Co. Planning Dep't. says that housing would need to be designated before applying for grants; should look @ what Main Street Revitalization Grants are available; would need a resolution for Main Street revitalization grants

Short-term Rental Discussion/Town Registration-The Town needs to come up w/a form for Aer B n B registrations since there are so many popping up all around. Should be charging a fee to register w/the Town. This needs to be discussed further.

Saratoga Network Stations & using remaining ARPA funds-Funds from ARPA must be used by 12/31/2024 or before, if possible, due to filing of all the paperwork necessary.

2025 Budget-Sales Tax Distribution-\$5,786 in add'l. money will be rec'd. in sales tax in 2025, for an approximate total of \$94,505 (this figures out to about \$23,626/quarter). There was an 80%-20% split before between the General Fund & Highway Fund; need to look at larger percentage for 2025 in General Fund.

Special Insurance Meeting & Opening of Travis' two bids-08/07/2024 @ the Salem Town Barn to pen the bids on Travis' two pieces of equipment. If the Reis Group is coming to review/talk about the Town's insurance, meeting could always be moved to Proudfit.

First 2025 Budget Meeting will be held on August 28, 2024 @ 6 pm in Proudfit Hall.

Supervisor Clary has been advised that Jake Ashby will be visiting Salem on Thursday, 07/18/2024. He will be meeting w/people who have set up appointments @ Jacko's. Will also visit Lunch, Learn, N Play; tour the Courthouse; possibly check out the Library & whatever else he wants to see or can fit in.

update; talks @ Wash. Co. re increasing sales tax from 7% to 8% ongoing, along w/Warren & Saratoga counties; possible developer for the old Gotham Mill on Vale Street has been identified; rocks from the HH site will be utilized on the banks of the Battenkill down at the Georgi (will be moved to a holding area until work is begun; this is at no cost to the Town). Larry listed Project updates for the Georgi, the Sewer Committee from Kay Tomasi, & Climate Smart work. Larry listed what he has been doing re economic development--who he has been meeting with & what projects are being discussed.

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Minutes

Motion to Adjourn-made by Councilman Howard Law, seconded by Councilwoman Brenda Levey, to adjourn the monthly meeting of the Salem Town Board; passed 4-0. Meeting was adjourned @ 8:18 p.m.

Special Meeting-of the Salem Town Board to open bids for Travis & possible hear an insurance presentation from the Reiss Group, will be held on August 07, 2024, @ 5 p.m. in the Salem Town Barn. If Reiss Insurance can come to the meeting, it can always be moved to Proudfit Hall.

Next Regular Monthly Meeting of Salem Town Board-will be held on Wednesday, August 21st, 2024, @ Proudfit Hall; 181 Main Street; Salem, NY. Review of Warrants #8 & Highway Abstract #8 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

