

SPECIAL MEETING-SALEM TOWN BOARD
FIRST 2025 BUDGET WORKSHOP MEETING
AUGUST 28, 2023

Present: Supervisor Evera Sue Clary; Town Council Members: Brenda Levey; Howard Law; Wyeth Coburn; Town Clerk-Patricia Gilchrist; Clerk to Supervisor-Kathleen Chambers; Highway Sup't.-Travis Keys; Al Cormier-Historian/Records Mg'mt.

Excused: Councilman Tom McMorris; Kim Erbe (on vacation)

Absent: Eric Rogers-Water; Maurice Patrick-Planning Bd.; Judy Flagg-Historian/Records Mg'mt.; Rebecca Brown-Water/Library; Jeanne Smith-Georgi

Public Present: Steve Saunders-Salem Fire Dep't. Chief; Joe Wever-Salem Fire Dep't.; Bill Mitchell-Salem Fire Dep't.

6:00 pm-Meeting called to order by Deputy Supervisor Brenda Levey, followed by Pledge of Allegiance

2025 Budget-Supervisor Clary reported that a 4% increase across the board has been plugged into the 2025 budget. Insurance costs went up by about 13.2%. DCO paperwork rec'd.; Nancy asked for a 1% increase. Councilman Law reported that Shushan Fire Co. was having their meeting on 08/29/24; Chief Cassidy will get us his proposed figures after that meeting.

Reviewed Proposed Figures Page by Page:

Line 33-Attorney-Con't.-Left @ \$15,000; Supervisor Clary needs to contact Attorney Klingebiel re increase.

Line 49-Special Items-Other Gov't. Support (IT)-Left @ \$10,000

Line 64-Control of Dogs-Con't. Exp.-At \$6,500 but will go up by 1%, which DCO requested.

Line 97-Economic Development-Con't. Exp.-Up \$3,000 from \$2,000 to \$5,000

Line 98-Economic Development-Con't. Exp. (sewer)-Up \$4,000 from \$1,000 to \$5,000

Line 104-Parks-Con't. Exp.-Up \$2,000 from \$1,000 to \$3,000—Prior Village Park needs lights

Line 107-Youth-Salem Youth Programs-Up \$1,000 from \$1,000 to \$2,000

Line 111-Library-Con't. Exp.-Up \$6,700 from \$33,300 to \$40,000 (Library requested this increase)

Line 119-Historian-Con't. Exp.-Up \$1,000 from \$2,300 to \$3,000 (New computer coming)

Line 146-Cemeteries-Con't. Exp.-Up \$6,300 from \$11,700 to \$18,000 (Will need to go out to bid again for mowing in 2025)

Line 152-Employee Benefits-State Retirement-Need firm figures on all Retirement; should have by next meeting.

Line 154-Employee Benefits-Hospital/Medical Ins.-Down \$1,000 from \$33,000 to \$32,000

Line 175-Misc. Tax Items-Interest & Penalties on Real Property-Up \$800 from \$4,200 to \$5,000 (\$5,790 paid to Town for 2024 tax collection interest/pen.-leave as is for now)

Line 179-Local Sources-Sales Tax Money-Up \$15,333 from \$17,744 to \$33,077; up considerably from 2024

Line 186-Use of Money & Property-Int./Earnings-Up \$9,000 from \$1,000 to \$10,000

Line 208-State Aid-AIM-Same @ \$23,578

Line 214-State Aid-Mortgage Tax-Down \$5,000 from \$30,00 to \$25,000 (will be down from 2024 figure)

GEORGI FUND APPROPRIATIONS/REVENUES

Line 235-Museum-Con't. Svcs.-Up \$6,830 from \$41,220 to \$48,050

Line 249-Museum-Other Cultural & Recreation-Up \$1,200 from \$20,800 to \$22,000

Line 252-Museum-Int. & Earnings-Up \$400 from \$100 to \$500

Line 253-Museum-Rental of Real Property-Down \$500 from \$2,500 to \$2,000

Line 256-Museum-Gifts/Donations-Up \$200 from \$100 to \$300

Line 260-Museum-Unclassified (Carlson)-Same @ \$16,900 (from furniture deaccession auction)

TRAVIS-HIGHWAY EXPENDITURES & REVENUES

Line 274-General Repairs-Personal Svcs. Summer- Up \$3,486 from \$171,514 to \$175,000

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Line 277-General Repairs-Con't Summer- Up \$5,000 from \$155,000 to \$160,000

Line 281-Improvements-CHIPS-Up \$16,500 from \$430,000 to \$446,500 (wash between expenses & revenues)

Line 289-Machinery-Equipment (new)-Up \$16,020 from \$316,980 to \$333,000 (new truck)

Line 290-Machinery-Con't. Exp.-same @ \$145,000 (Travis says he is comfortable w/this)

Line 295-Snow Removal-Personal Svcs. (O.T.)-Up \$5,000 from \$25,000 to \$30,000

Line 297-Snow Removal-Con't. Exp.-Up \$5,000 from \$145,000 to \$150,000

Line 303-Employee Benefits-State Retirement-Still need final figures

Line 307-Employee Benefits-Medical Ins.-Up \$11,000 from \$43,000 to \$54,000 (about 11% increase)

Line 318/319 Interest-BANS-No figures plugged in; need interest figure

Line 332-Local Sources-Sales Tax Money-Down \$9,547 from \$70,976 to \$61,429 (Bigger % going into the General Budget for 2025 than Highway)

Line 334-Local Sources-Interest & Earnings-Up \$2,500 from \$5,000 to \$7,500

Line 340-State Aid-CHIPS-Up \$16,500 from \$430,000 to \$446,500 (This is a wash as Travis explained.)

WATER APPROPRIATIONS/REVENUES

Line 358-Home & Comm. Svcs. Adm.-Con't. Exp.-Up \$10,000 from \$10,000 to \$20,000 (This is for IT on the Distribution side.)

Line 367-Purification-Personal Svcs.-Up \$1,658 from \$27,342 to \$29,000

Line 369-Purification-Personal Svcs. O.T.-Up \$400 from \$9,000 to \$9,400

Line 382-Employee Benefits-Retirement-Left blank-need true number

Line 388-Debt Service-Serial Bond-Up \$1,000 from \$96,000 to \$97,000 (yearly pay'mt. on water debt)

Line 402-Departmental Income-Metered Sales (275)-\$117,177 last year; need to talk to Rebecca before plugging in a figure for 2025. How much to go up??

Line 403-Departmental Income- I & P Water Rents-Need a figure from Rebecca

Line 407-Use of Money & Property-Int./Earnings-Up \$200 from \$600 to \$800

Line 424-Lighting District-Con't. Exp.-Shushan-\$9,800 (no increase from last year)

Line 434-Lighting District-Con't. Exp.-Salem-\$24,000 (no increase from last year)

Line 447-Fire Protection District-Salem-Up \$7,281 from \$182,014 to \$189,295 (4% put in)

Line 448-Fire Protection District-Shushan-Up \$2,295 from \$57,378 to \$59,673 (4% put in)

COMPENSATION PAGE (LAST PAGE)

Line 606-Mileage-up \$.05 from \$.58/mile to \$0.63/mile (per IRS limit)

Salem Volunteer Fire Dep't.-Chief Steve Saunders spoke on behalf of the Salem Fire Dep't., requesting a total increase of \$55,175 for a total contract amount of \$237,189 for the 2025 Budget. The increase was 15.73% for the 2024 budget & an increase of 30.31 % for 2025. Fundraising basically covers building maintenance on the fire house & inspections. Steve reported that the cost for 100' length of hose is now \$925. A copy of their 2025 budget was handed out to all present. Total Equipment costs increased by \$12,325 in the proposed 2025 budget, up from \$35,500 to \$47,825. Equipment maintenance went up \$600 from \$1,200 to \$1,800; pager supplies went up from \$500 to \$1,000. Sub-total of all expenses listed on page 2 went from \$143,400 in 2024 to \$164,900--an increase of \$21,500. The Apparatus payment stays the same @ \$48,356. Budget total increased from \$227,256 to \$261,081--total increase of \$33,825.

Total asked for in 2025	\$237,189
Total asked for in 2024	-\$204,502
Inc. from 2024 to 2025 (what was asked for)	\$ 32,687
Shortfall from Town in 2024	+\$ 22,488
Increase asked for from 2024-2025	\$ 55,175

Keep in mind that this wipes out all expenses; what about income?? This also does not show how much was given to the Fire Dep't. in total ARPA funds.

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Steve also mentioned that another option would be to go to a Fire District w/Commissioners instead of the current Fire Protection District. The first year of District Formation the Town Board would appoint the Commissioners; after that the Commissioners are elected w/staggered terms. Something to think about, but how much would this cost for both the Town & the Fire Dep't.?

Norman Rockwell Program that Tom McMorris did w/the descendants of those whose pictures Norman painted was a big success, as reported by Historian Al Cormier. The exhibit has been in several locations & was well attended in all. Thank you, Tom, for presenting this.

Engie rate lock for electricity beginning in 2026-Clerk Gilchrist explained that the Town locked in @ a rate of .08924 in October of 2021 for a renewal date beginning January of 2023. Cheri Klass, Senior Energy Consultant w/Consumer Energy Solutions, Inc., called to say that we could lock in a rate now for the new renewal start date of 07/01/2026 before the rates go higher. The rate is currently fluctuating between 0.13-0.146 so the sooner we can lock in for renewal now, the better. **Motion made by** Councilman Wyeth Coburn, seconded by Councilwoman Brenda Levey, to lock in the rate now w/Engie for renewal beginning 07/01/2026-06/30/2029; passed 4-0. (Note: The lock-in rate was 0.12055, lower than what was thought originally; the agreement was signed on 08/30/24.)

Salem Sales Tax Distribution-Need to figure what percentage to put in general & what percentage to put in highway. Is it currently a 35% to General & 65% to Highway? Supervisor Clary thought she had done a 33% to 67% split. Either way, if there is a shortage, the Town has to increase something.

Pro-Housing Communities Model Resolution-LGLCRPB needs Supervisor Clary pass this Resolution so if money becomes available in the future, the Town can apply for the same then. **Resolution #36-Motion made by** Councilman Howard Law, seconded by Councilwoman Brenda Levey, approving the Pro-Housing Communities Model Resolution, to be used if & when funds become available; passed 4-0. Clerk Gilchrist will draft the Resolution according to the model provided.

Great Meadows Resolution-Supervisor Clary will draft the same re keeping both facilities in Comstock open.

Glens Falls Hospital Lease-What is the Board's pleasure regarding a monthly rental figure for the medical offices? Representatives will be coming to Salem for lunch on 08/30/2024 & Supervisor Clary would like to discuss the Lease renewal w/them. The Town currently pays \$1,100 for rental of their offices so the Board would like her to discuss a figure of \$1,200/month as that space is much bigger than what the Town has.

CORRESPONDENCE-FOIL request rec'd. regarding blinking signs of any kind. It will take a while to go through back minutes & find the voucher for the purchase of the blinking speed limit sign.

Next 2025 Budget Workshop Meetings: 2nd Meeting-09/11/2024 @ 5 p.m.-Proudfit Hall; 3rd Meeting-09/25/24 @ 5 p.m.-Proudfit Hall; 4th Meeting-10/09/2024 @ 5 p.m.-Proudfit Hall. Councilman Wyeth Coburn asked Clerk to Supervisor Chambers to plug in a 10%, 15%, & full amount requested from Salem Vol. Fire Dep't. just to see the 2025 Budget impact; she will do those pages for the 09/11/2024 meeting.

Regular Monthly Meetings of Salem Town Board-September 18, 2024, in Proudfit Hall, beginning @ 5 p.m. for review of Warrants #9 & Highway Abstract #9 for payment; meeting called to order @ 6 p.m. October 16,2024, in Proudfit Hall, beginning @ 5 p.m. for review of Warrants #10 & Highway Abstract #10 for payment; meeting called to order @ 6 p.m.

Motion to Adjourn-Motion made by Councilman Howard Law, seconded by Councilman Wyeth Coburn, to adjourn the 1st 2025 Budget Workshop meeting of the Salem Town Board; passed 4-0; meeting adjourned at 7:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Patricia A. Gilchrist-Town Clerk-Town of Salem