

**TOWN OF SALEM**  
**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING-TOWN BOARD**  
**AUGUST 21, 2024**

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

**Others Present:** Travis Keys-Highway/Water; Kim Erbe-Planning Bd./Library; Larry Haber-Economic Development; Sandra Haber-Georgi; Herb Perkins-Courthouse; Rebecca Brown – Water and Library

**Public Present:** Tom Clark, Mike Miller, Winona Hathaway

**Excused:** Pat Gilchrist-Town Clerk

Abstracts for #8 were presented. **Motion** by Councilman Law, seconded by Councilman McMorris to approve the vouchers presented on Abstracts 8, **approved.**

Minutes – 06/19/2024 – **Motion** by Councilman McMorris, seconded by Councilman Colburn to approve the minutes of 06/19/2024, **approved.**

07/17/2024 – **Motion** by Councilman Law, seconded by Councilman McMorris to approve the minutes of 07/17/2024, **approved.**

07/24/2024 – **Motion** by Councilman Law, seconded by Councilman Colburn to approve the minutes of 07/24/2024, **approved.**

**Committee Reports:**

Highway – Presented by Councilman Law, reports emailed prior to meeting.

Skid steer – **Motion** by Councilman Law, seconded by Councilman McMorris to go along with the exchange with Queensbury, **approved.**

New fireproof filing cabinets are being used.

New truck should be into Zwack by the end of next week.

On list with Alliance (formerly DeLurey) for a new truck.

Water – Presented by Councilman Law, reports emailed prior to meeting.

Drone – Sue spoke with Tim Hardy, may come in the fall when they are at the Georgi and Eagleville Bridge, looking at trees and erosion.

Economic Development – Larry Haber – Still working on trying to obtain the Linke property, EPA has federal liens. So far, all communications have stopped. Trying to schedule a meeting with Bob Henke, County Treasurer and attorney to see what happens. May have to go to auction and if it does, goes 2 times before anything can be done.

Master Comprehensive Plan – won't start anything until Sept. Need to give the old plan and more forward. Have met with the SFS and library to discuss this.

Dog Control – no issues

Sewer – not much to discuss currently. Feel we need to go into executive session to discuss matters that should not yet be made public. Working on a property acquisition if the Linke property can not be obtained. Delaware said they would be providing info to the public on what we can do. Nothing has been received. Councilman McMorris suggested that we get Delaware moving forward. If it goes to the public for a referendum, anticipated time frame would be a minimum of 5 years.

Salem Fire Dept – get your raffle tickets now for the monthly 50/50. Report was emailed prior to meeting.

Salem Rescue Squad – Report was emailed prior to meeting. They've been very busy.

Georgi – Hyde is looking to take some paintings over to the Hyde in January. They are looking at using 12 paintings. Photos of all the paintings were taken by Tom McMorris. Appraiser needs to be brought in to reappraise the paintings. Sandy has contacted a few people. Chris Dailey suggested that we continue to use Sotheby's. Cost would be \$1500. **Motion** by Councilman Colburn, seconded by Councilman McMorris to move forward with Sotheby's, **approved**. Need to obtain a COL from them and a W9.

Emergency Disaster Plan has been filed.

Sign samples being sent to Planning Board for approval.

Poison Ivy – looking for someone to remove.

Community Room rentals – as far as insurance, a case-by-case basis.

Fall into Shushan is not being held this year

Georgi Committee – anyone interested in being on the committee and able to be at functions, contact the town office.

Brandon Holcomb – name given that he might be able to look at ADA. Needs to go out to bid again. Any questions leave the engineers number to call. Suggested, if possible, to have all call interested parties in on the same day for questions and answers.

Roof – received a quote from Pinnacle. They reviewed the feasibility of removing the skylights. Suggested this not be done. They will honor the original estimate. **Motion** by Councilman Law, seconded by Councilman Colburn to have Pinnacle move forward with replacing the roof, **approved**. Insulation was discussed and have not heard back from Pinnacle.

Mold – where is it. Need to have this investigated. Should be analyzed before insulation takes place. Was there a list given to the town in 2016 of where the mold was?

Gable vent – is it real or is it fake. Butch says he's heard it running.

HSCPA – Herb presented the minutes from last week's meeting.

Howard mentioned that he heard there was alcohol for sale on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July event. Didn't this think should be encouraged as it's advertised as a family function.

Beer and Brats is also encouraging the bringing of children.

Insurance was discussed. HSCPA carried insurance, they are a 501 3C. Herb will call Cormie and see if their policy covers events at the courthouse. It was agreed that the TOS should be listed as an additional insured along with the rates of \$1m coverage with a \$2m aggregate.

July 4<sup>th</sup> parage was nominated by NYVT Media as a top event.

Schedule from HSCPA was presented.

LLP had a great summer. Event ran from 8:30-2:30.

Going to check on joining the swim program in Hebron with Tom & Cindy Rogers. Would need to go at 2:30 to Hebron Camp, after LLP is done.

Fire protection work is on hold, at the present. TOS will need to give the \$20,000 once everything is under motion.

Public Comments – Mike Miller discussed how every time there is high winds power is lost in the upper end of Beattie Hollow. Power is transferred over to them via a line from Chambers Road, at Chambers Valley Farms shop. CVF has reached out to NYSEG on the situation, and they will do nothing. They were told as trees come down; they will send someone to repair lines. Issue appears to be from landowners down the line, on Beattie Hollow, that will not allow overhead lines on their property. Supervisor Clary to investigate this. Also, he is having issues with neighbors and a lot of junk around. Tom Clark stated it's a public right-of-way, should be no issue with NYSEG putting lines up through. Mike stated that Superintendent Keys is doing a nice job with the road.

#### Supervisor's Report –

Mike Miller brought in a report from Sandgate board. The residents voted to approve the land project at the end of Beattie Hollow. Supervisor and board do not agree to this. State is getting more involved. Town of Sandgate will receive more \$ if this happens.

County discussion was reviewed on the closing of Great Meadow. This will be a big hit to all neighboring towns, same as the Salem Jail closing and a big hit to Salem. There are numerous contracts ongoing at the jail, that will not be completed until 2025. These projects will be completed even after prisoners leave in November. This is a done deal, and nothing can be done to change the states plan.

#### New Business –

2025 budget. Worksheets have been distributed and are to be turned into Supervisor Clary by Friday.

2025 Salem Tax Distribution will be increasing due to sales on the internet. Possibly a \$6000 increase.

Insurance – info has been sent to different providers to see what can be done. NYMIR is looking at a 13.9% increase.

Pro Housing Resolution – need to get on the list to be eligible. **Motion** to move forward, bring it up at next week's meeting.

Georgi Museum – resolution – Sue will bring it up at next month's meeting.

GFH/Salem FHC – meeting to review contract. Plan to stay here, for undetermined time. Board would like to see if rent can be raised to \$1200, from \$950, same as what the Town Office rent is. Councilman Law reiterated the fact that he would like to see the Salem FHC be the Town Office, after they leave.

HHHN – plans to open in July 2025

Climate Smart Community – Supervisor Clary is working with Superintendent

Keys

FEMA – 2 people from FEMA Chrystal Smith and Jonathan Smith, had a discussion on what was happening. Felt like nothing has changed in the last 25 years, as per Tom Clark. White Creek has a lot of trees down above the rescue squad building. Several low points. Archibald Street bridge was discussed. Maps were presented, and nothing has changed. Crystal is working on obtaining different maps. Need to keep tabs on this and keep it moving. Individuals can sign a petition; the town can do nothing. It's under county appeal. Tom Clark, once again, gave highlights of what has happened with the White Creek. Discussion took place on what to do about potential of flooding of White Creek.

Old Business –

Grant received from LGLCRP

Slic/Westelecon – all accounts have been changed. Judge's phone has been fixed. All old lines have been cleaned up. Spectrum has been switched out in Library. Ring Squared is done in Justice and Library. Office has switched from Spectrum to Slic/Westelecon, all mailboxes set up. Training will be tomorrow.

**Motion** to adjourn the meeting by Councilman Law, seconded by Councilman McMorris, **approve.**

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Chambers  
Recording Secretary